

## Scribbles

How often a child is given the opportunity to actively and creatively participate in artistic activities is stronger predictor of artistic development, than the child's age.

Around the ages of 18 months children move from random scribbles to "drawing" as they realize they're responsible for making marks on their paper.

The scribbling stage is an important development stage that does **not need to be rushed!**

Children will tell you stories from their scribbles and their imagination shines when allowed to do so.

To a young child, the significance is in the experience of making the marks, not what the final "drawing" looks like.

Children love to have your attention so take time for turn-taking art activity. They make a mark, than you make a similar mark. After awhile suggest that you trade turns and now they follow you. This can be done on separate pieces of paper or you can share a paper.  
(draw at the child's developmental level...use the hand you do not write with)

When you make comments on what you see in a child's drawing, you expand on their language and help them understand words such as long, short, up and down.

Instead of asking "what is this?" make comments about what you actually see. Examples: "you made a long line here and a short one here"..."look at all the dots you made"

Remember: Early drawing of lines, dots and marks are essential for all future; printing, writing, reading and art work.