

streamers, glitter, etc. Clay made him a beautiful stick horse using a broom handle, stuffed sock for a head & felt for the 2 eyes & tail.

6. ARTS & CRAFTS PROJECTS WERE ABOUT THE FIRST ACTUAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES WE COULD SHARE WITH THE 2 CHILDREN TOGETHER, who are 14 mos. apart in age. As

long as we offer as many kinds of art materials as possible, they'll both keep busy & interested for a long while, with only 1 helper. The kids take their materials from a low drawer & choose between water painting, cutting & pasting, drawing or colouring, modelling clay or doing a suggested craft project.

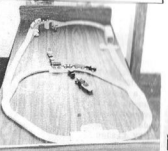
7. DITO IS ACTUALLY MORE CREATIVE & DILIGENT WITH HANDIWORK WHEN HE WORKS ALONE. I've learned from childcare books & experience with kids that the fewer instructions the better when inspiring a child to use his imagination. Don't ask children, "What is that?" when they've finished creating something--they are most likely more interested in how they've created something than the end result. Show interest in children's art with a genuine, specific appraisal, such as, "I like your



The plastic apron behind neck & back to prevent mess--not use a man's T-shirt for an artist smock.

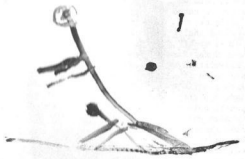


Working with modelling clay on a piece of plastic keeps it moist & pliable. Store in a covered plastic container.

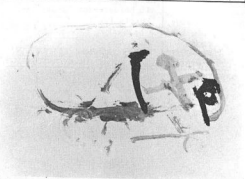


A low, large working surface is very helpful for handiwork. This bed-board frame was put on bricks to heighten for children's work table.

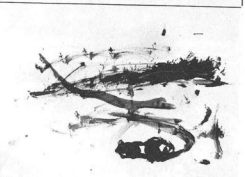
picture because the boy looks so happy!"
8. CHILDREAN BOOKS DON'T ENCOURAGE THAT YOU MAKE MODELS FOR CHILDREN TO COPY, because you could be setting the standard too high & discourage the use of his own imagination. Outlined pictures in colouring books should be used at a minimum & can be rather restricting.



Dito, 3yrs.2mos.: "This is Alf & me sitting on the curb, waiting for the bus in the hot sun!"



"A bus, driver, steering wheel, & gearshift!"



9. DETAILS IN CHILDREN'S ORIGINAL DRAWINGS ARE NOTED AS SIGNS OF THEIR INTELLIGENCE & GOOD OBSERVATION. But do not make the mistake of drawing on their paper the added details or pointing out where the next blob of paint should go. Let the child see your enjoyment in drawing or

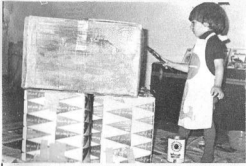
painting for your own pleasure, perhaps illustrating a story on paper as you tell it to the child.



Screen-painting over a big leaf on paper.

10. YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND IN OUR HOUSE A STORAGE SPOT FOR CRAFTS MATERIALS, with boxes, cardboard, magazines, bottles, spools, sticks, cloth scraps, etc. Sometimes the "thing" sparks a "crafty idea"--the idea sparks the hunt for the needed materials, usually found there somewhere in the pile!

11. WITH SO MANY HELPFUL, USEFUL ITEMS NEEDED IN OUR WORK FOR THE LORD, there's no use in making only a decorative or delicate craft project, when pen & pencil holders, key racks, cassette holders, toolboards, doortoppers, sitting stools, bulletin boards & more & more useful things could be supplied through your handi-crafts with kids. Simple picture books of crafts projects ideas can be found at the library, or refer to the FC Rec. Rng. List.



--& he painted this same box 3 times!

12. OF COURSE, THEY DERIVE GREAT PLEASURE ALSO IN MAKING THEIR OWN TOYS, or love gifts & cards to give to friends or hospitalised children, etc. as a witness. Babies in their 1st year can even begin to experiment with coloured crayons or non-toxic paints on very large paper on the floor. A little mess is not important, but the waste of these precious early years is tragic.

13. REMEMBER NOT TO MERELY SAVE ART TIME & CREATIVE PROJECTS FOR A "RAINY DAY"--Try to help inspire the child's own creativity & use of his hands, & to derive pleasure from creative art, play & crafts whenever he so desires! Have fun, be sure do! GBY!



This big box turned out to be our convertible play-stove, oven & garage!

Children even enjoy "painting" with plain water & a big brush--on tile walls or sidewalks, for example. Tempera paints in small jars are easy to wash off a painted window or mirror.--

The cleanup's more fun than the paint job!



Soldier's armour made from cardboard, aluminum foil & tape.



Early manipulative activities help develop small muscles--cutting, pasting, colouring, painting, block-building, working puzzles, & clay modelling. No matter what a child is doing, he's learning something, so help him learn thru creative play.



Fasting a toothpick house, at 2 yrs. old.