



Child: _____ Date: _____

Therapist: _____ Phone: _____

Occupational Therapy

Drawing Skills

Before the child can focus on developing drawing skills, the child needs to have developed some skills in the areas of pencil grasp, fine motor control and basic strokes.

Activity Suggestions:

- ❑ Demonstrate how to make simple shapes with your child. Have them practice by tracing the shape with their finger. Visual cues, such as dot to dots or a marker dot indicating where to start and stop are helpful initially. Talk about shapes seen in the environment (i.e., the book is a rectangle, the clock is a circle).
- ❑ Have the child practice drawing basic strokes such as, a horizontal line, vertical line, circle, crossed lines, and angled lines. These basic strokes can be incorporated into simple pictures such as, a stick man or a house.
- ❑ Ideas to incorporate shapes into your child's pictures: Find 2 or 3 objects that are circular e.g. a round cracker, a clock, or a plate. Place the objects on a table in front of the child. Have the child choose 1 of the objects. Talk about its size, shape, colour and any other distinguishing details. Trace the item onto a paper, then add details as accurately as possible. Repeat this activity with different shapes.
- ❑ To practice drawing people, the adult should demonstrate how to draw people by making a picture with the child. Talk about the features on the face and body (i.e., what do you need to smell with, hear with, wave with, etc.)
- ❑ Work on free drawing. If your child does not know where to start, help them by making a plan, a list or a sketch to help organize the space.
- ❑ Practice drawing skills in fun ways, such as having your child make cards for special occasions.
- ❑ Keep a folder of your child's drawings. It can be fun and encouraging to look back even after a few weeks and see the progress that has been made.

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