

Drawing Families Together

Enjoy these unique bonding experiences during Youth Art Month and beyond. Gather the family around the kitchen table to share thoughts and feelings through art.

Swap Art - Create art together by starting and swapping pictures. Have kids work in pairs or every family member can participate. Here are three ways to play:

1. "Color Doodles" starts by making crayon scribbles. Swap and have the other person turn the doodles into colorful abstract art.

2. "Mystery Scratch Out Pictures" is layered art made with a partner. Everyone fully covers a piece of paper with big crayon splotches of color. Don't worry about the design, just cover every inch with crayon. Then use a black or dark blue crayon to color over those colors, filling the entire paper. Swap. Partners scratch out (use toothpick, paperclip or pen cap) drawings and are surprised where different colors pop up, making the pictures mysteries.

3. "Picture Puzzles" turn art into puzzles. First, everyone uses Crayola® crayons or markers to draw a picture on paper or thin cardboard filling the sheet. Then every picture is cut into 6-8 pieces. Swap. Partners put the pictures back together like puzzles.

Art Night Marathon—Start a new family tradition that on every Saturday night, or one evening per month, the family spends time together celebrating the Art Night Marathon. Gather Crayola® art supplies and kids. Invite relatives, classmates and neighbors to your colorful celebrations.

"Roots and Leaves" - Explore your family names and family history. First and last names have special meanings. Check out where your names came from and what they might mean. Draw a family tree that shows ancestors and relatives. Where did your ancestors live? Look up those places on the Internet and learn more about your family roots. Family structures, like trees, vary in their shape and form. Draw roots, branches and leaves to illustrate the relationship of various family members.



"Family Favorites" Murals -

Learn more about family members while creating a big "Family Favorites" mural. Use a large roll of paper or poster board and Crayola® markers or crayons. On the mural, all family members draw their favorite pizzas, fruits, sports, colors, holidays, and animals. Display this as a big, beautiful record of the family's similar and individual tastes and interests.



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The Family News – Your kids can keep relatives and long distance friends up-to-date on family news by writing an original family newsletter. Look at your local newspaper or family Web sites for ideas on feature stories, clever headlines, interviews and illustrations. This could be a kids' project or everyone in the family could take a different job, such as interviewing, illustrating, writing, editing, designing, photocopying, and sending or E-mailing the finished news.