

Journaling with Toddlers

Presented by Amy Wood, Ma.Ed
Montessori Schools of Massachusetts Conference
January 5, 2019

Resource List

The blog post that inspired it all:

<https://teaching2and3yearolds.com/how-to-introduce-preschool-journals-to-3-year-olds/>

Brainstorming: things to consider:

- Implementation: what would this part of the curriculum look like?
- Organization and storage: where in the classroom will the journals be kept? How will the children access them?
- Available resources and supplies
- Budget and related expenses to implement it
- Durability: 3 ring binders vs. Composition notebooks
- Presentations for the children
- The process of “journaling”
- Potential outcomes. +/-

Scribbling: What is it all about?

Researchers—just to name a few

- Georges-Henri Luquet (1876-1965) *Children's drawings: (le dessin enfantin)* 1927
 - One of the first books devoted to children's drawings
 - Now mainly remembered for his distinction between 'visual realism' and 'intellectual realism' and for the formula 'children draw what they know, not what they see'.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/33260150?g&versionId=40763921>
- Viktor Lowenfeld (1903-1960)—*Creative and Mental Growth*, 1947
 - This book became the single most influential textbook in art education
 - The book describes the characteristics of child art at each stage of development with suggestions for appropriate types of art media and activities for each age
 - Lowenfeld did not claim the originate these stages by adapting them from earlier sources.
 - Stages consisted of :
 1. Scribbling—uncontrolled, controlled, naming of scribble: 2-4 years
 2. Pre-schematic—4-6 years
 3. Schematic—7-9 years
 4. Dawning-realism/gang—9-11 years
 5. Pseudorealistic/age of reasoning 11-13 years
 6. Period of decision/crisis of adolescence 14 +
- Rhoda Kellogg (1898-1987) *Analyzing Children's Art* 1967
 - In her study, she investigated more than one million drawings by children under the age of six.
 - Further studied Piaget stages of cognitive development (1948) and the three stages of early drawing
 1. Scribbling: around 2 years
 2. Shape and design by 3 years
 3. Pictorial by 4 and 5 years
 - She identified 20 basic scribbles—including vertical and zigzag lines and concluded that these scribbles were not random, but rather indicated the child initiation of abstract view at around the age of two.
 - In the 2nd stage, shapes and designs—children can draw lines and shapes consisting of the six basic types: circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, crosses and X's—with the circle being the shape that children master first. In this stage, the child can combine two basic shapes and form and abstract pattern.
 - In 3rd stage, child is able to draw pictures that represent reality and their surroundings.
 - She concluded that 'stages in early drawing reflect maturation of the brain as well as of the muscles.'
<https://sapanaaidasani.wordpress.com/2013/05/01/what-are-the-stages-of-early-drawing-and-artistic-development/>
 - “Kellogg published a groundbreaking archive of approximately 8,00 drawings by children from the ages of 20 to 40 months and thus became the first to publish an archive of early graphic expressions.”
<https://www.amazon.com/Analyzing-Childrens-Art-Rhoda-Kellogg/dp/1626540586>
 - More information on Rhoda Kellogg
https://www.montessoritrainingusa.com/sites/montessoritrainingusa.com/files/%23%2011.%20Rhoda%20Kellogg_0.pdf
- Howard Gardner (1943--) *Artful Scribbles: The Significance of Children's Drawings* 1980.
 - Developmental psychologist—famous for Theory of Multiple Intelligences—He has identified eight intelligences: linguistic, logical-mathematical,

musical, spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic. This theory allows for the idea that there is more than one way to define intellect.

- This book describes the developmental process of drawing. Gardner explores the links between children's art and their emotional, social, and cognitive development.
- Maureen Cox *Children's Drawings* (1992)
 - "This book offers an illustrated introduction to understanding and fostering children's drawings. It examines step-by-step discovery of proportion and perspective, the typical early "errors"—the tadpole figures, chimneys sliding off roofs, the huge "air gap" between ground and sky—and explains why children depict not what they see, but what they know there is. Art, argues Maureen Cox, can be used or abused in assessing personality and diagnosing problems. As long as we believe drawing is a mysterious "gift", only very highly motivated children will make progress. She concludes by suggesting how parents and educators can help foster the talents of both ordinary and exceptionally gifted children." https://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=22895636570&searchurl=tn%3Dchildrens%2Bdrawings%26sortby%3D20%26an%3DMAUREEN%2BCOX&cm_sp=snippet--srp1--title2
 - For a downloadable copy of one of her other books called, *Children's Drawings of the Human Figure* go to: <https://wizzwoo.com/download.php?q=children-s-drawings-of-the-human-figure-cox-maureen-v> retrieved from the web 1/1/19. Still available as of 1/1/19.

Developmental progression of pencil grasp:

- "Whilst it's important to start encouraging the correct pencil grip at a young age, it's important to be aware that you are encouraging the correct *age-appropriate* grip. Getting a 3-year-old to use a tripod grip when their muscles aren't developed enough will only result in them using an awkward version of the grip and these incorrect habits are hard to correct over time. However, you can support the development of their pencil grips by developing the underlying skills required for manipulating a pencil properly, such as grip strength, finger isolation, shoulder stability and postural control." <http://occupationaltherapychildren.com.au/parents-pencil-grasp-gripping-guide/> retrieved from the web 12.29.18

Developmental Stages of Scribbling

1. Random scribbling—15 months to 2 ½ years
2. Controlled scribbling—2 years to 3 years
3. Lines and Patterns 2 ½ years to 3 ½ years
4. Pictures of Objects or People—3 years to 5 years
5. Letter and Word Practice—3 years to 5 years

- Zero to Three website—overall great website for child development <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/305-learning-to-write-and-draw>
- Kathleen Bailer has a printable synopsis entitled "Developmental Stages of Scribbling"—with suggestions to support each stage of scribbling <https://www.mariamontessori.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Developmental-Stages-of-Scribbling.pdf>

Extra information on art development

- *Young in Art a developmental look at child art* by Craig Roland—a short pdf book with picture illustrations http://www.artjunction.org/young_in_art.pdf
- *Child art: A brief review of the developmental stages* by Peggy Pat Martin <https://www.cyc-net.org/cyc-online/cycol-1201-martin.html>

Talking with children about their art

- An blog post with several great tips <https://www.mother.ly/child/7-key-phrases-montessori-teachers-use-and-why-we-should-use-them-too->
- <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/how-to-talk-to-children-about-their-art/article35560776/>

Books to explore scribbling and child development

- Stamm, Jill. *Bright from the Start: The Simple, Science-Backed Way to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind from Birth to Age 3*. New York, New York, Gotham Books, 2007.
- Sax, M.D. Ph.D, Lenorad. *Why Gender Matters, Second Edition: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know About the Emerging Science of Sex Differences*. 2nd ed., New York, Harmony Books, 2017.

An article geared to the 3-6 level, with good reminders that writing usually happens before reading, with a focus on encouraging a lot of experiences with writing.

- <https://www.montessoritoolkit.com/montessori-at-home/trusting-the-process>

Supply list:

- Composition notebooks 100 sheets work best—They allow for the art to go on the right-hand side then dictation/story writing on the left-hand side. Roughly a page a day for a school year.
- Tape, tape and more tape—It has been helpful to have two tape dispensers that have two permanent spots in the classroom.
- Variety of writing tools: crayons, pencils etc.
- Paper—cut to fit inside the journal roughly 5 ½ x 9.
- Storage area for journals: basket, shelf area, draw system

Thank you for attending the workshop. It was a pleasure to share my experiences with all of you. I hope you leave inspired with several ideas and tips that you can implement in your teaching practice.

Please feel free to reach out with any feedback, questions, or discoveries you may have.

Amy Wood