

Parent notes

Congratulations on purchasing this printable drawing book for your child!

Drawing is both a precursor to writing* (a series of drawing patterns) and a communication tool and tool for expression, alongside verbal speech, play and singing. Drawing helps children to develop the fine motor skills they need to write as well as visual skills and memory skills, which are the same used for handwriting. Drawing is a cornerstone for early literacy development.

There are other benefits of drawing, especially when it is a shared activity between parent and child. These include enhancing the parent and child relationship through fun and play, providing opportunities to teach children about the world (eg colours, shapes) and developing verbal speech through parent and child interaction.

For children that have not yet started to draw representational objects (typically the under threes), we suggest large blank project books for large and free scribbles. This can be a very enjoyable shared experience, with exposure to different drawing tools.

Only after the age of three do forms of any sort begin to emerge, with a common focus around the person's shape and use of circles.

It is only around the age of five where there is greater confidence with squares, triangles and diagonal lines, when more complex drawings emerge.

Because of the benefits of drawing as a shared activity, our vision with this book is that completing it is a shared activity.

At the end of this book, the pages are deliberately blank. We encourage you to start those pages for your child or work alongside your child in completing them. Get them to do a squiggle for you to do something with. Or vice versa.

We are often asked about drawing versus colouring. Many children find colouring a soothing and calming activity, which is a very positive thing, although solitary. It is the shared drawing activity that we are promoting, as an important preparatory foundation for writing, a form of communication between adults and children, as well as a fine motor skill.

We acknowledge that you could have gone out and bought a blank project book for your child to draw in. This will work for some children, but may not work for others. We have observed that children (adults too...) can have trouble starting a drawing, indeed anything at all with a stark blank page. We've termed this "blank page fright" (a play on "stage fright"). Consequently, we have included a number of starter pages to help get your child started.

If you do move on next to a blank project book and your child is having trouble deciding where or what to start with, try starting the page as we have done in this book.

Want to know more?

For guidance on the wide and fun range of tools to use, drawing ideas and developmental stages of drawing, see www.memobooks.com.au/squigglekids/ or come to one of our workshops.