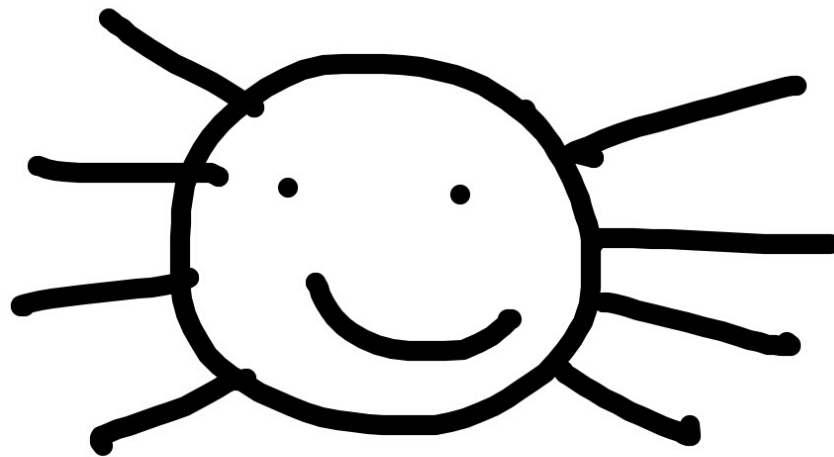


A CRITTER'S DAY OUT



**A DRAWING
ACTIVITY BOOK
FOR CHILDREN**

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. A common focus at that time is a person's shape and the use of circles.

Around the age of five there is greater confidence with squares, triangles and diagonal lines. This is 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.

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.

Here are some ideas for working on this book with your child:

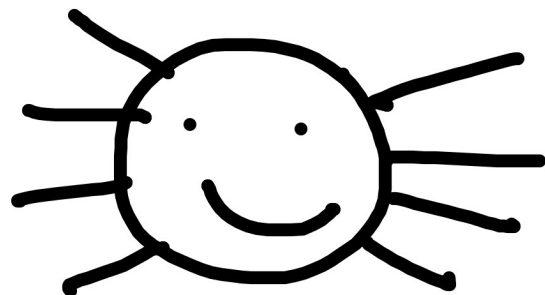
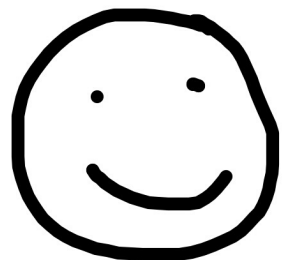
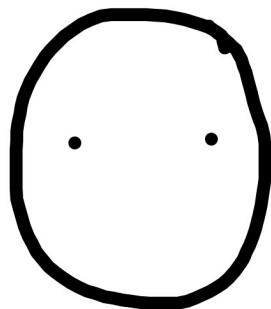
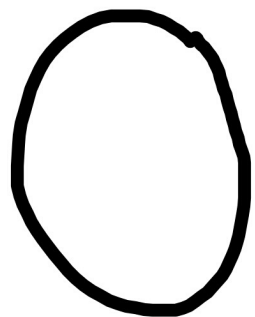
- let your child decide where they start in the book (there is no need to start on the first page!) and when and where they take a break. There is equally no need to finish the book in one hit!
- each child will respond in their own way to this book. Some children will need more parent involvement than others. We suggest working with your individual child's needs.
- does your child want to go off script and draw something else? Great! Through this book we want to encourage children to draw and build confidence drawing anything and everything that interests them!
- the pages contain some prompts you can use to encourage your child to draw. Add others to inspire and extend your child!
- date each page in the space provided.
- the last two pages of this book are deliberately blank. Start those pages for your child or work together to complete them. For example, get them to do a squiggle for you to add to. Or vice versa.

We acknowledge that you could have 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, the pages in this book each have prompts 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 and using prompts 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.



Here's how you build a critter.

Now its your turn!

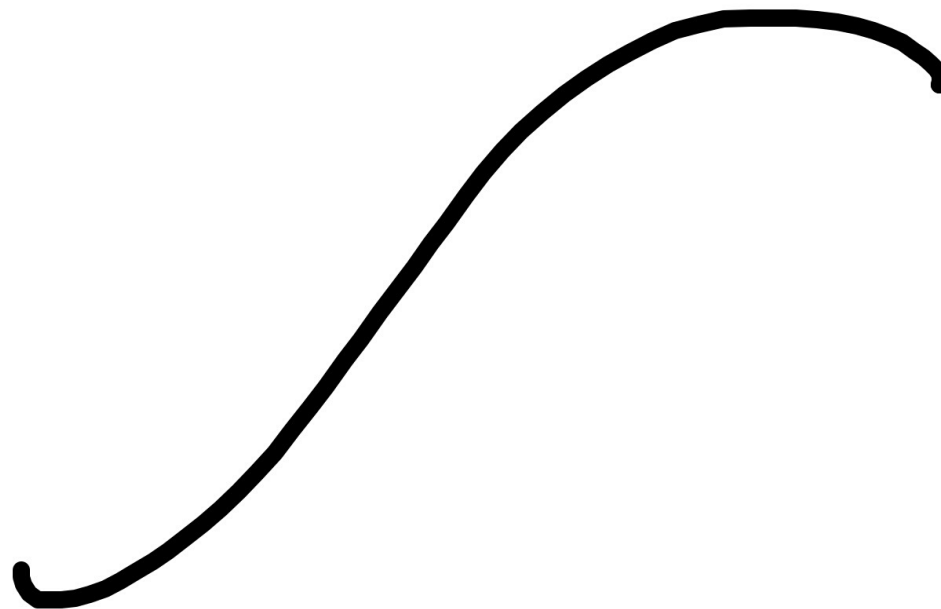
date.....



Could we play with your favourite toy?
Could you draw it for me?

date.....

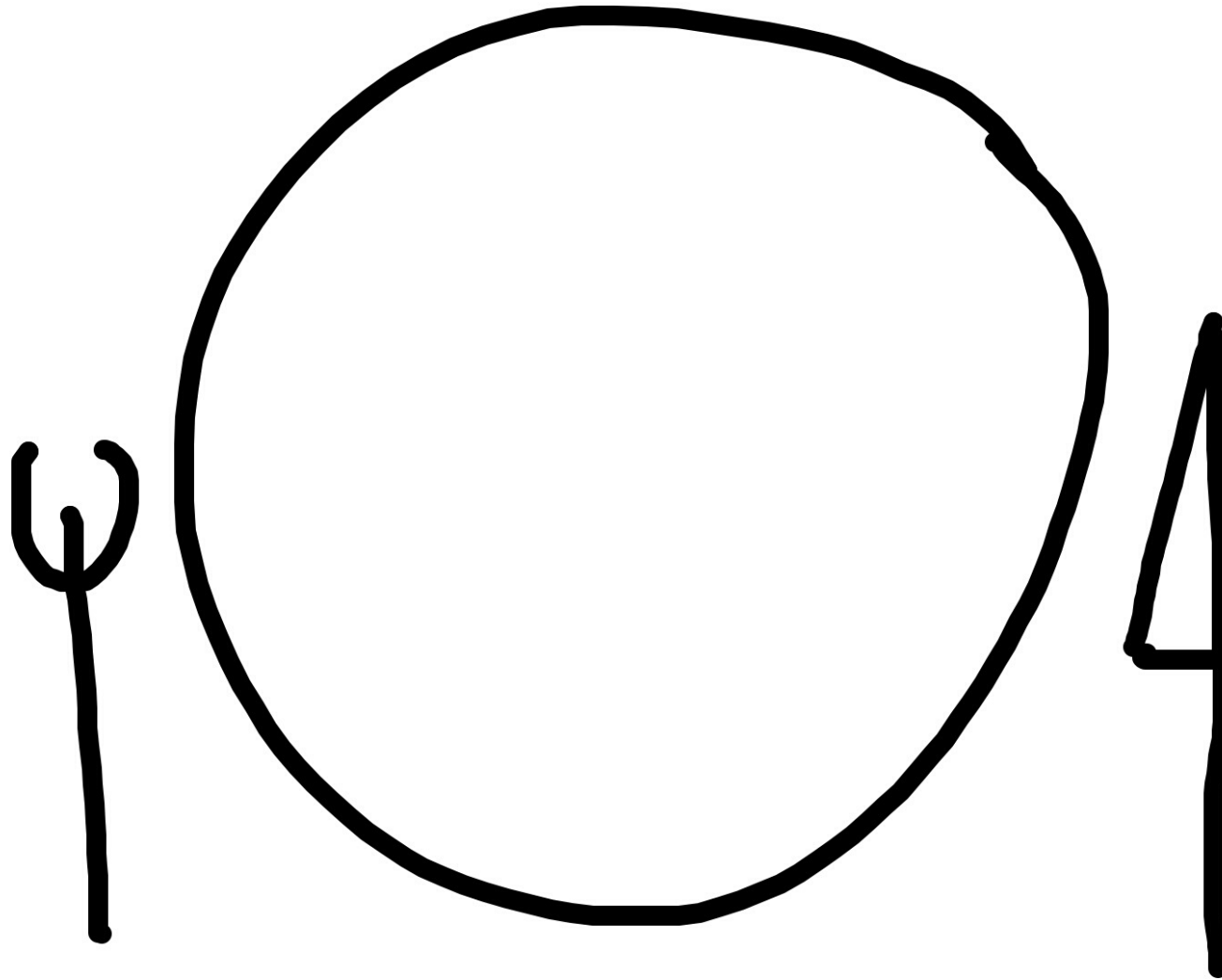
Weeeeeee!



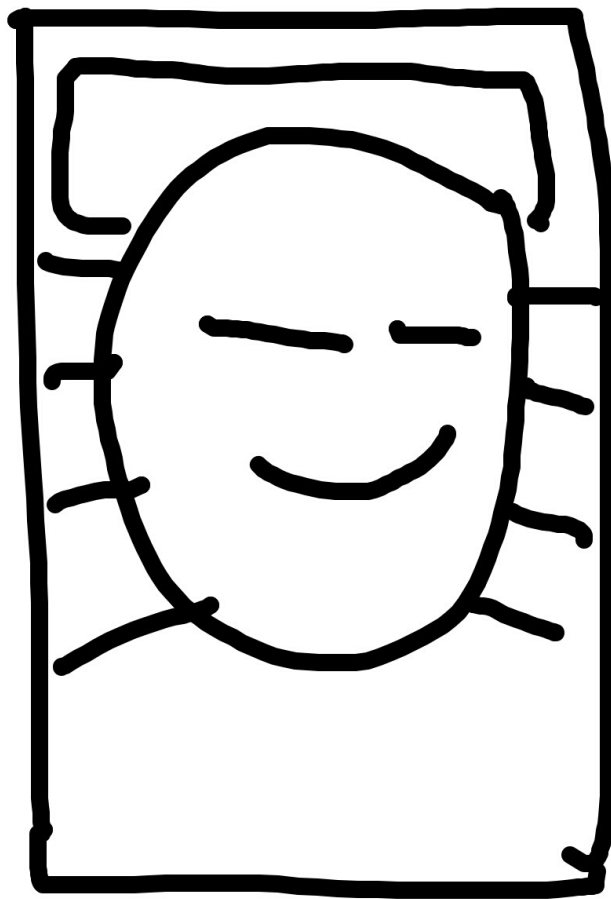
Let's go to the park. Can you
put me on the slide please?

date.....

Dinner time! Can you fill my plate with your favourite food?



date.....



z z z z z

Time for bed. I'm cold.
Can you put my blanket on?
Sweet dreams!

date.....

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Lauren Gardiner**

Squiggle Kids 

More drawing activity books by Squiggle Kids are coming soon!
See www.memobooks.com.au/squigglekids/ for details!

Academic references from the parent notes:

MacFarland, L, Mackenzie, N and Thompson, N (2018), Early childhood educators' and parents' perspective of literacy for children under three: An exploratory study, NZ International Research in Early Childhood Education Journal, 21(2), 45-58.

MacKenzie, N (2011), From drawing to writing: What happens when you shift teaching priorities in the first six months of school?, Australian Journal of Language and Literacy, 34(3), 322-340.

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(sample)
(22/4/2020)**