

Ms. Jordan's ideas and tips for making art at home:

- The definition of communication is the sending and receiving of messages. Art is communication! Art is telling your story! We are living a different way, for now, many people are writing or journaling their thoughts, feelings and experiences. Students can do the same thing through art-making. Student's may find telling their story through drawn pictures and collage. This can be a fulfilling activity, and you may learn new things about your child and how they are experiencing this time.
- Look around for different materials for your child to make art. Maybe you, or someone in your home has some art or crafting supplies they are not using, and would be willing to donate to creating art.
- Set up an art-making spot at home or put art supplies in a box that can be easily brought out for use when regular classwork is completed. This is what we do at my home. When everyone is finished with their studies, we get out our art box and unwind by painting or drawing.
- Draw something every day, not only is it a path to becoming a skillful artist, it is simply a great way to strengthen muscles in the hand for writing. Drawing is different from writing because you change the pressure on your pencil to create desired effects.
- If you want to be able to erase or change your picture, draw lightly so that you can add and change lines without leaving dark marks on your paper. Some artists never erase! They go with whatever they draw, even if it wasn't what they wanted.
- Mistakes are an opportunity to go a different direction. Fire up those problem solving skills!

Activities:

- Consider having your child, or any member of the family, create a journal of experiences during this time. Images can be drawn or cut from magazines to create a collage. (Collage will require scissors and glue and some adult supervision.)
- Draw the same subject 3 times. Each time use a different art tool or material to make the object.
- Use scrap paper to practice making different types of line. Draw 2 sets of these lines; one with pressure on your pen or pencil and the second set, draw very lightly. "Draw like a whisper."
- Draw an object without looking at your paper. Slowly observe the object, and allow your eyes to follow the outline (contour) of the object while your hands move. Don't lift your pencil, don't look at your paper and let your hand and eyes work together.
- Find a place or create a space to display your work. It's amazing what you can do with some string and clothespins or paperclips! A popular trend at this time is to display art in windows for folks passing by, turning neighborhoods into 'art walks'.

- Try to find time to talk about the work. Questions to ask: What is special about the work? What stands out? What would you change? Here is a nice resource for parents:
<https://artclasscurator.com/how-to-and-why-look-at-art-with-children/>

Other fun drawing activities:

- Draw yourself in space!
- Draw a creature from two different animals blended together.
- Draw a birthday cake for a dog party.
- Invent your own car and draw it!
- Draw an animal that is also part dinosaur.
- Draw yourself as the Statue of Liberty
- Draw your feet! Then draw them with fur or scales or tentacles.

*Remember: you can experiment with materials to create your drawings: add string or foil, toothpicks, cotton balls or q-tips. You can color or paint with different tools. If you don't have paint at home, see if there is food coloring available as you can make paint with it by adding water!

Thank you for participating! Please send pictures of work to my email:
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I miss Suncrest Elementary more than words can express.
I look forward to hearing from you!

Ms. Jordan

