

creating an ART CENTER

by Lynlee Harvey

Regardless of your child's age, it is always a great idea to dedicate a space in your home for creative activities. Giving children a space of their own and filling it with art supplies encourages imagination, and keeps them busy while you cook dinner or take a little time to check your email. Here are some tips to consider when developing a space that fits the needs of your family.

Create Order

Group crayons, colored pencils and markers in small containers so that children have easy access while controlling the clutter. At our house, we have clear, square containers and group crayons by color. It is easy for the kids to find what they're looking for and it even makes a pretty display when not in use.



Display

What child isn't proud to display the art he creates? Fit a display area for what works best in your home. Magnet boards, bulletin boards, and wire display clips are all great ways to show off kids' creations. Adding a chalk board nearby is another chance for them to express themselves and a place for you to keep handy notes close by! The above art display center was created by mom, Martha McGlothlin Gayle, and author of www.theconfetichronicles.com. It illustrates a great way to display artwork and offer interaction for her children.



Room to Work

Be sure you have plenty of room for the children to spread out. This all-in-one art center by Guidecraft (www.guidecraft.com) has desk space for a roll of paper as well as plenty of storage for paint, scissors, pens and other odds-and-ends.



Storage

With kids, you can never have enough storage. These fabulous document boxes from The Container Store (www.containerstore.com) offer plenty of room so that everything has its place. They are the perfect size for coloring books, construction paper and sheets of stickers. Assign a box for each category.



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