



Tips for Parents Supervising Younger Children

All ArtShed Takeaway Video Tutorials follow the same format. Older children should be able to follow the tutorials without supervision. Younger children may need some supervision so here's what to expect...

Part 1 – Drawing

Your child will need a pencil, rubber and ordinary paper to practice on. In this first part Kathy demonstrates how to draw all the different elements in the picture and your child is asked to practice the drawing first before drawing the 'real thing'. At the end of Part 1 Kathy demonstrates how to draw the whole picture and then your child, having practiced, will be encouraged to draw theirs ready for painting in Part 2.

Kathy demonstrates using either Black Sharpie or charcoal in order for her lines to be clearly visible. Your child should use a pencil (ideally 2B) initially and then if mentioned in the video they can then go over their lines with Black Sharpie (permanent marker).

Part 2 - Painting

Your child will need to have their drawing outlined in Sharpie (if advised in the video tutorial) and access to the necessary materials listed in the Materials List. They may need help mixing any paint that need mixing.

Kathy will take your child through the different stages of painting their picture. This will be done in **LAYERS**.

The first layer (Canvas Painting Projects only), commonly known as a 'coloured ground' is referred to the in ArtShed as the painting's 'Underpants'! This is where you apply one colour to the entire picture first in order to create atmosphere and depth to the painting.

There will be times when your child is asked to let their picture dry before they work on the next stage.

At the end of any project your child is given the option of outlining their picture in Black Sharpie pen again if they want to. Their picture must be **COMPLETELY** dry before this stage or the pen will not work well.

TROUBLESHOOTING

My child presses too hard with their pencil!

This is normal for young children as they learn to develop their fine motor skills. They will need to be encouraged to press lightly. I often ask them to pretend that they are stroking a pet with their pencil! A 2B pencil is the best for young children to start off with.



My child draws everything too small!

Children are used to drawing within the confines of smaller sheets of paper and textbooks at school, it also takes confidence to draw bigger. It is important that your child does the practice drawing and is encouraged to draw bigger if necessary. Our projects are specifically designed with this in mind. For younger children it may help to draw some very faint guidelines to help them.

In ArtShed we work with A3 paper and larger sheets of A2 for our larger Watercolour Projects. A2 paper may seem huge for a younger child but we find that it encourages their creativity and enjoyment. The results, often dramatic because of the scale, are impressive and therefore a huge boost to a child's confidence. It is important that your child practices first!

My child gets upset and doesn't like her/his picture.

It is not unusual for a child (or an adult!) to get upset or frustrated doing Art! Art is NOT always relaxing, like any other subject it is a learning process and you get better with practice.

It is important that your child is allowed to dislike their picture if that is how they feel at any stage. Ask which bit they don't like and either encourage them to have another go or offer to help. If at the end of the project they still don't like it then encourage them to understand that this is ok. Artists do not put every picture on the wall and often throw things away and start again!

How should I respond to my child's attempts at Art?

Too often I have seen a child run enthusiastically to their parent desperate to show them their picture only to be met with, 'What's that?' If your child is enthusiastic about their picture...whatever it looks like...SHARE THEIR JOY! They have a lifetime to build finer art skills but confidence can be crushed in a moment. If you don't know what say or what the picture is then ask them to tell you about their picture, what their favourite bit is and so on.