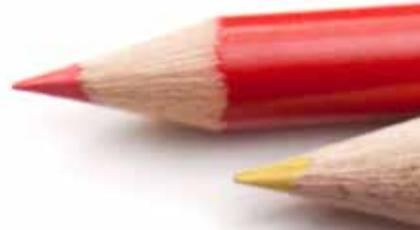




JULIE ANGEL & CO  
Specialist Art Teaching Company

# Teach Your Child to Draw



# Introduction

Drawing is a very important activity unique to the human race and has been used as a way of communicating for tens of thousands of years.

In today's world of technology, it is even more important to engage in this vital physical activity. Parents often feel out of the loop when it comes to teaching children to draw – they may think it is the school's job or that they don't have enough skills and knowledge to help their child.

The truth is, however, that we can all help our children by encouraging them to draw both in and out of school. This book will provide suggestions for parents and children to develop their drawing skills together, which will be beneficial in all aspects of life and will help participating children to advance at school.

If you are one of the many parents who wants to encourage your child to be more creative and learn to draw, yet you feel that you don't have the necessary skills to teach them, then try not to worry – your child has everything they need to learn to draw.



# Chapter 1

## How we draw

In general, there are three systems of drawing: the Symbol System, the Element System and the Stylised System.

### The Symbol System

The Symbol System is drawing using simple symbols to represent people, places and objects. Using a set of basic shapes and lines, we can use this effective method in a number of circumstances. This is incredibly valuable and useful in so many ways.

We use this method of drawing because it is quick and uncomplicated, and requires a minimum amount of skills and limited materials – in fact, you can use anything to draw with. The system is recognised visually by humans all over the world regardless of their language.

The Symbol System is all around us in the form of road signs, information boards in public places, instruction leaflets, and so on. We use this system for many different reasons, including drawing maps, explaining a road accident, or designing an interior or item of clothing. We use it when we play games or wish to communicate something in an instant.



### The Element System

The Element System achieves a more realistic image. In simple terms, it applies rules to trick the eye into seeing a three-dimensional image. These rules are: using an accurate shape and line, with areas of light and dark and tone and colour, to create a realistic image.

### The Stylised System

The Stylised System (or graphic/cartoon drawings) is a mixture of both the Symbol System and the Element System. Drawings that are stylised, graphic or cartoon-like usually have slightly more sophisticated shapes and lines but contain little or no tone. They will have flat colour without hues and very simple light and dark areas. This is incredibly useful for many reasons because the messages contained in this form of drawing can be more complex.

Advertising, comics, animation, designs for clothes, fabrics, interiors, and many more types of creative vehicles all use this wonderful drawing method. When children have learned to draw, they will happily use this technique, especially when they are telling or illustrating stories or creating designs. This approach to drawing can be calming and relaxing to both create and view – films such as The Snowman and The Snowdog demonstrate this perfectly.



# History of our art

Understanding the process of learning to draw will help you to identify your child's drawing development levels, and will enable you to assist them in transitioning through to the next stage.

### Children start to draw at about 18-24 months of age.

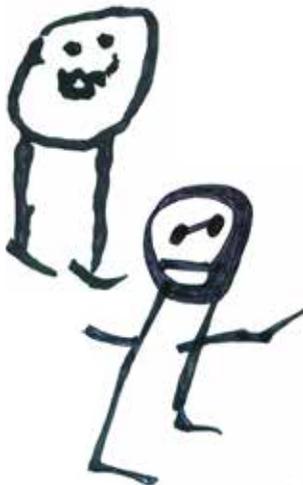
They generally start with a vaguely circular repetitive scribble and, at some point; two dots are added in or around the circle and the child makes an astonishing connection, with this drawing now representing a face. Usually it is the main carer's face. No other species does this – when you see it happening, you are witnessing a magical and remarkable event. Regardless of the fact that it occurs to all of us, it is, like birth, a truly wonderful experience.

When you witness this, it is very evident that we are all hardwired to act in this way. Some parents film their child's first steps, but I would suggest keeping these first drawings, and celebrating them by putting them on the wall or using them as screensavers.

scribble and dots:



Next they move on to adding legs and arms:



Then comes a body:

Do not have

Provide a place to draw, basic materials and simple guidelines from this book to help your child progress from one system of drawing to the next.

TIP

Above all, the most important things you can do to help your child are to appreciate their drawings and ideas, to have patience, and to try not to move them on before they are ready – they will do this by themselves when the time is right. By drawing with them, you can have fun and enjoy this journey too – after all, it is only once that they will make this transition and it is an honour for anyone around to witness it, to be a part of this process too.



### Five or six years of age

By about five or six years of age, your child will be drawing to tell stories, to describe things and surroundings, and to enjoy the feeling of making art. Pictures will look like these and will mainly be produced using the Symbol System. This is my drawing when I was 7 years old.



### Seven and eight years of age

By seven and eight years of age, your child will be roughly here on the timeline and their drawings will look like this. They will usually enjoy drawing the same image again and again, adding more and more details each time. When they draw a pirate ship, for example, they may start making the flag more detailed and will add an increased number of features to the ship as time progresses.

### Next

Next your child will move from using the Symbol System to the Element System. I would recommend not trying to push children to move on before age eight or nine as there is little point if your child is not developmentally ready.

# Chapter 3

## Getting started

Here are exercises for your child to try as a great starting point.

### Getting started

Use a ballpoint pen and tell your child to start with very light lines. Discard any lines they don't want to keep and retain the ones they do by going over them in darker lines. Use hardly any pressure to ensure light lines.

### Basic shapes

Here are some basic shapes that many familiar objects around us are comprised of. Ask your child to copy these shapes on a piece of paper – it would be a useful exercise for you to have a go as well. Your child will enjoy practising and drawing these shapes. They will want to cross out the rejected drawings, but encourage them to use the Smiley Face Marking system below – they will be used to this method at school. Urge them not to be precious about their work and instead to be able to show their mistakes, viewing this as part of the normal process.



### DO NOT CROSS

out your work instead use the Face to indicate what you think about your work.



### HAPPY FACE

I like lots of things about this drawing. It resembles the object it represents, it's well-drawn and looks good overall.



### NEITHER SAD OR HAPPY FACE

There are some things that have gone well in this drawing but not everything. It still needs improving



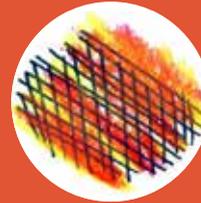
### SAD FACE

I don't like any part of this drawing, the shape is not good, the line is not good. It does not resemble the object I am drawing.

**TIP**

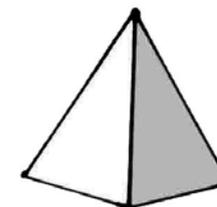
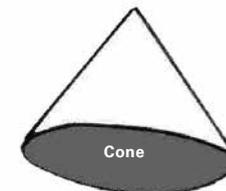
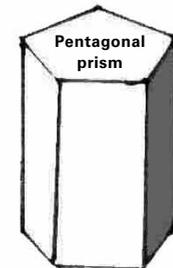
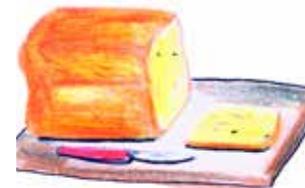
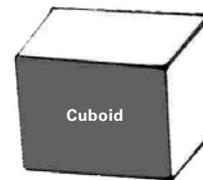
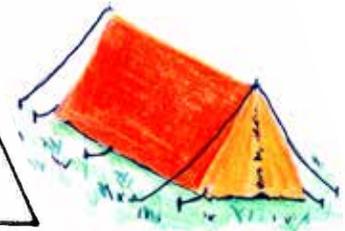
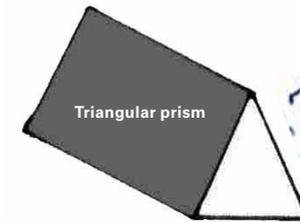
Crosshatch areas where it is dark. Keep in the lines and make your lines closer together, pushing down harder.

Crosshatching is drawing using lots of parallel lines, some closer together and some further apart. This has been used for thousands of years to achieve light, dark and tonal areas. Ordinary ballpoint pen can give a fantastic effect.



### Art Game

Ask your child to find objects with similar shapes and to draw them in pen. Then you and your child could find objects around the house that are similar to these shapes and draw them in pen. Now you have started, keep up the momentum by doodling shapes and familiar objects in pen. You can add light, dark and tone if you wish.



# Chapter 4 Great artist Inspiration

Using pictures, photographs and images from the internet is a gentle way to start drawing and observing subjects to draw. Apply the same rules from the Element System to achieve a realistic drawing so if there is light and dark in the photograph then add them in the drawing, try to get the same shape as the photograph. Paintings from well-known artists are brilliant to use instead of photographs or images from the internet.

Find out what your child thinks about their work and then you could give them advice for example, for this drawing the praise could be: "Good colour, strong bold style, could maybe add more orange flowers".

Things to avoid

- Complicated shapes
- Complicated patterns
- Lots of writing
- Too many objects



**TIP**  
Some images can be too complicated but children will be drawn to them because they like them. You can help at this point by getting a simpler image.

# Chapter 5 Drawing from observation

Direct observation is a very useful tool and your child will learn a lot from this experience. Practice makes perfect, so I suggest you start by compiling different objects that your child likes and finds relevant. Children like cakes and sweet treats – if you have a child that can control themselves and resist temptation, then this is a great exercise.

Suggestion: You could bake a cake with your child, then decorate it, draw it, and, the best part... eat it. This is a brilliant party activity.



Your child should be placed in front of the object, at arm's length. If they get in the habit of facing down towards the paper and moving just their eyes to look at the object, then this will help them to draw more quickly.

**TIP**

# Chapter 6

## Everyday things to draw

It's a good idea to start this exercise using simple objects that are easily drawn and can look effective even if drawn with uneven skills.

Try drawing everyday objects from around the house to practice creating strong and simple shapes. Start with one object and then move onto two objects – this is a good way of challenging your child, especially when the shapes start to overlap.

### Suitable objects

These are just suggestions – you can find similar things around your house, but stick to the basic principle of a simple shape.

Starting with light lines in pen, draw the shape, then draw the line



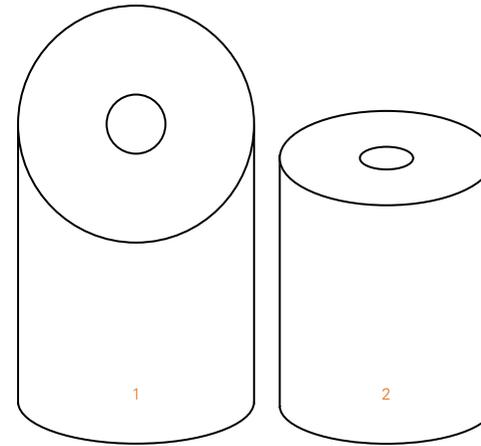
Add light and dark areas with crosshatching. Add a little colour using coloured pencils rather than felt tip pens, as pens won't blend or allow for the subtleties needed.



It would also help if you joined in with your child as a way of spending quality time together, or maybe a sibling or friend may wish to get involved too. I have known several parents who have joined forces, starting mini art clubs with their children in each other's homes. Whatever works best for you is great.

### Less is more

Don't buy any expensive materials. If you use a ballpoint pen and colour pencils, that should be fine for starting to draw basic things. Cartridge paper is a good surface and is inexpensive but ordinary A4 printing paper is perfectly adequate. Colour pencils are great for beginners but do vary in quality. You can buy large quantities for very little money but be aware the quality is usually poor, the pencils do not blend, sharpen and are waxy. British made pencils are inexpensive and blend well. I always use Derwent and WHSmith own brand both of which are excellent value and quality.



A common issue when drawing cylinder objects is drawing a circle instead of an ellipse at the top of the shape. Help your child by drawing the two shapes side by side. You could praise number 1 drawing with comments such as nearly there, good effort, the shape is almost a cylinder. On drawing number 2, you could ask your child how they felt achieving a better shape.

### Overlap

Children are challenged when first drawing objects that overlap. You could help your child see this overlap by drawing a simple sketch however rough but one that shows the two objects overlapping. At this stage children need encouraging that it is okay to not draw the entire object as they normally do. Up to this point children will have been using the Symbol System and Stylised Drawing and drawing what they see in front of them will be difficult at first.



Sometimes drawing on the back of envelopes or recycled paper from the bin is a good way to stop being precious about work. If it is drawn on scrap paper, is the experience of making the drawing itself.

**TIP**

# Chapter 7

## Less thinking, better drawing.

### I see, I draw.

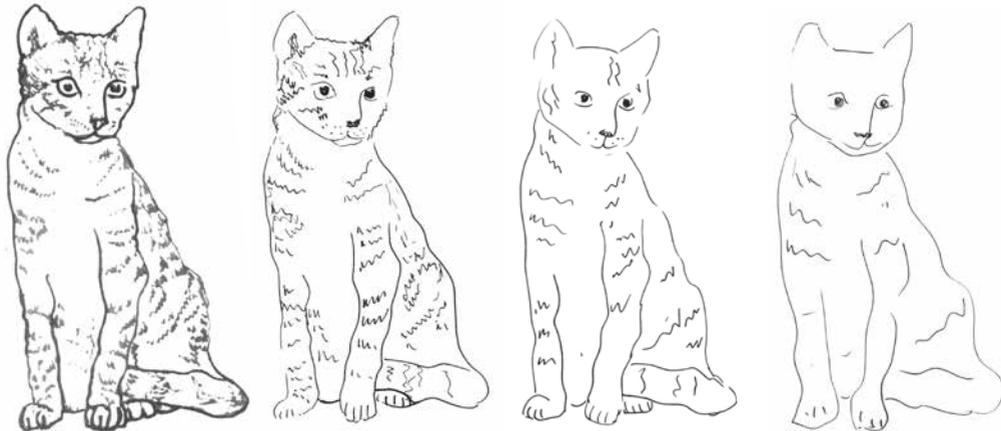
Drawing quickly is a great way to activate that part of your brain that is already hardwired to draw. You don't need to think – just look and draw using a ballpoint pen and any type of paper.

Start with one object and draw the same object about five or six times. Begin with an allocated time of seven minutes – use your phone stopwatch to keep a track of the time, and write 'seven minutes' next to the drawing. Then give yourself five minutes, then three minutes, then two minutes, then one minute and finally 30 seconds.

### The less you think about it, the more you end up drawing.

Thinking less and letting the natural process of seeing and then drawing is like a camera lens when it quickly opens and allows an image to be recorded.

Often the 30 second drawing is the best, which demonstrates that we can draw well without thinking. This exercise also proves that we don't need a rubber to draw. By using pen, your child will have to start with light lines, then choose which lines to keep, helping them to not think of these lines as mistakes but simply as some lines that are not wanted. Also your child will be free to draw using any medium without always drawing with a rubber.



5 min

1 min

30 secs

15 secs

# Chapter 8

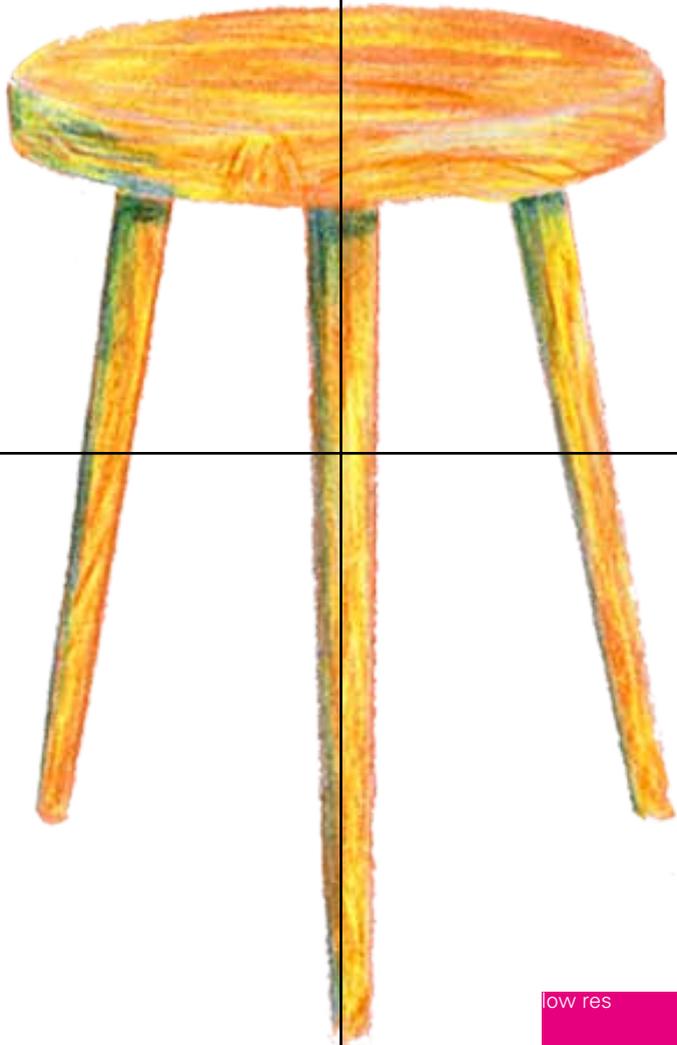
## Grid drawing

You will no doubt be familiar with 'Spot the Difference' games – well, drawing with a grid is the same principle... but instead of spotting small differences, you draw exactly what you see in the grid.

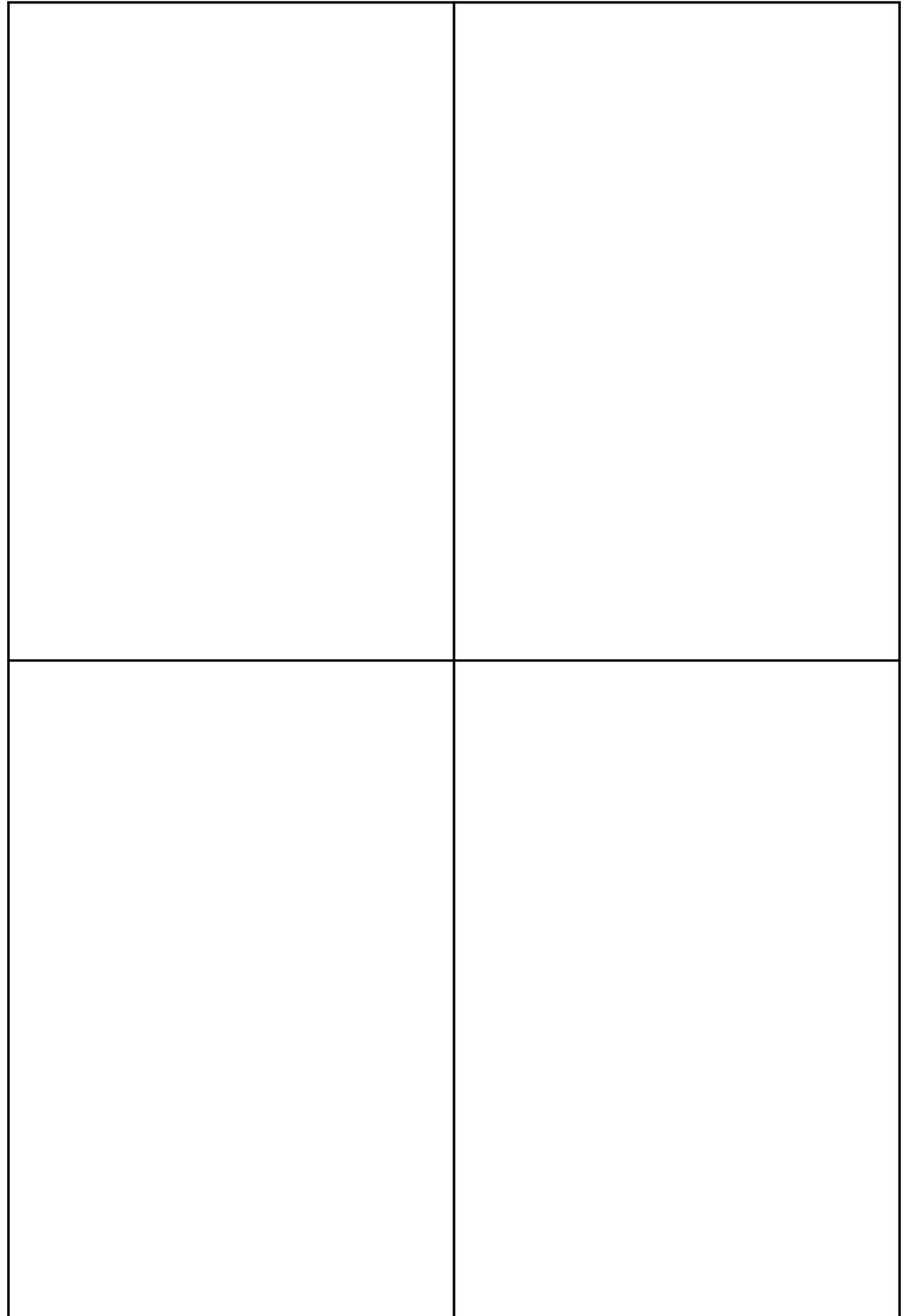
This is a great drawing exercise that can either be a one-off or you can copy this grid to use with more images.



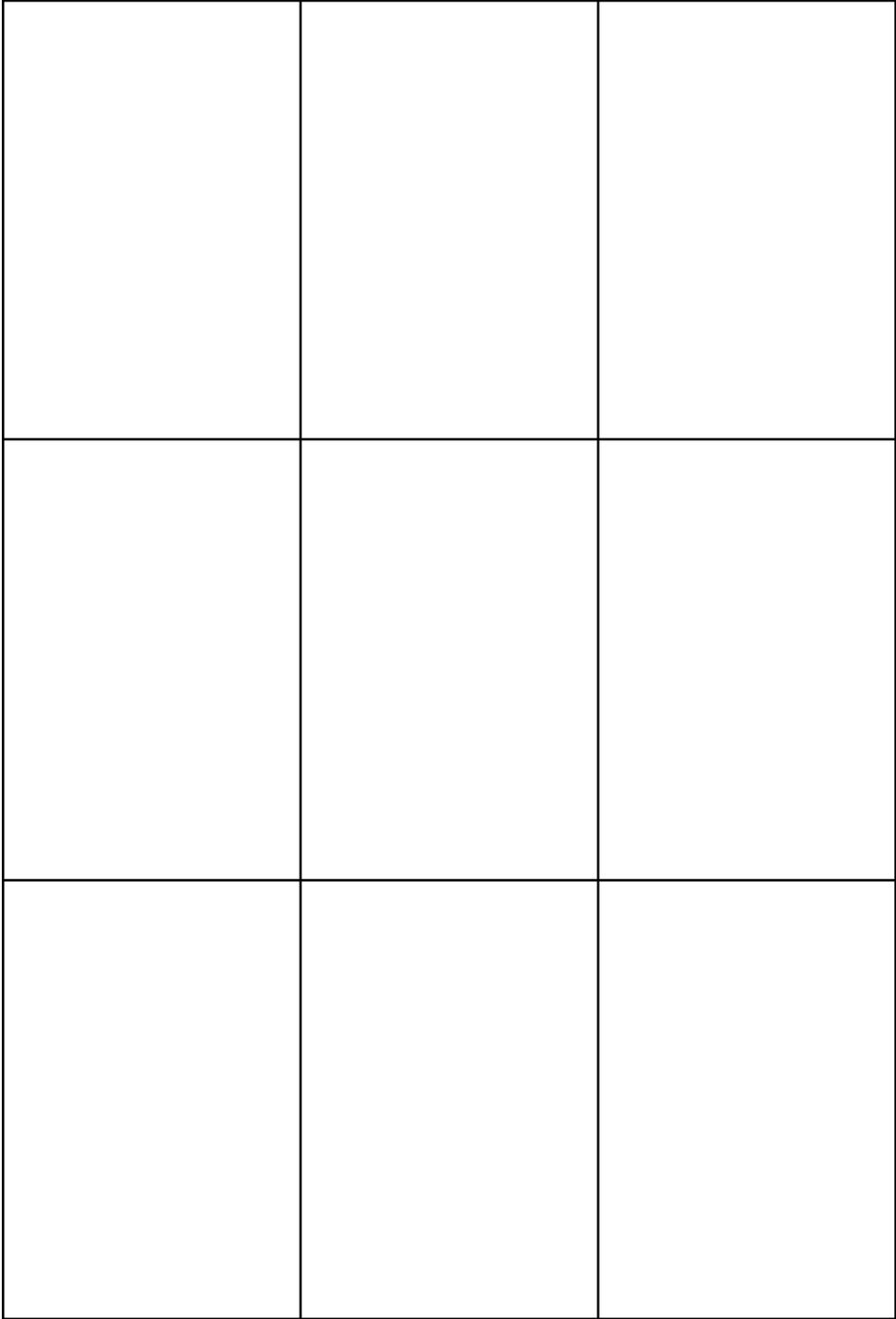
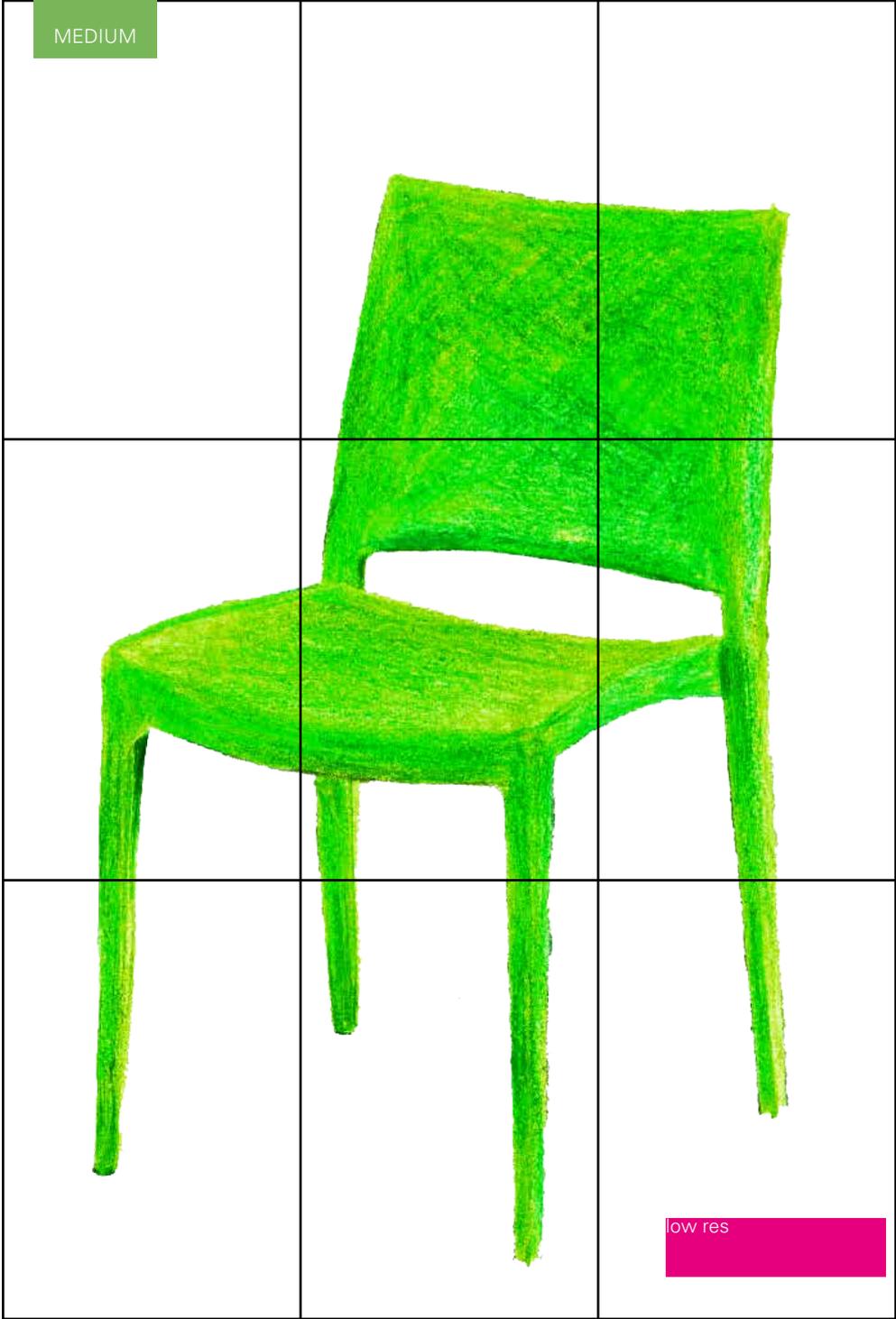
EASY



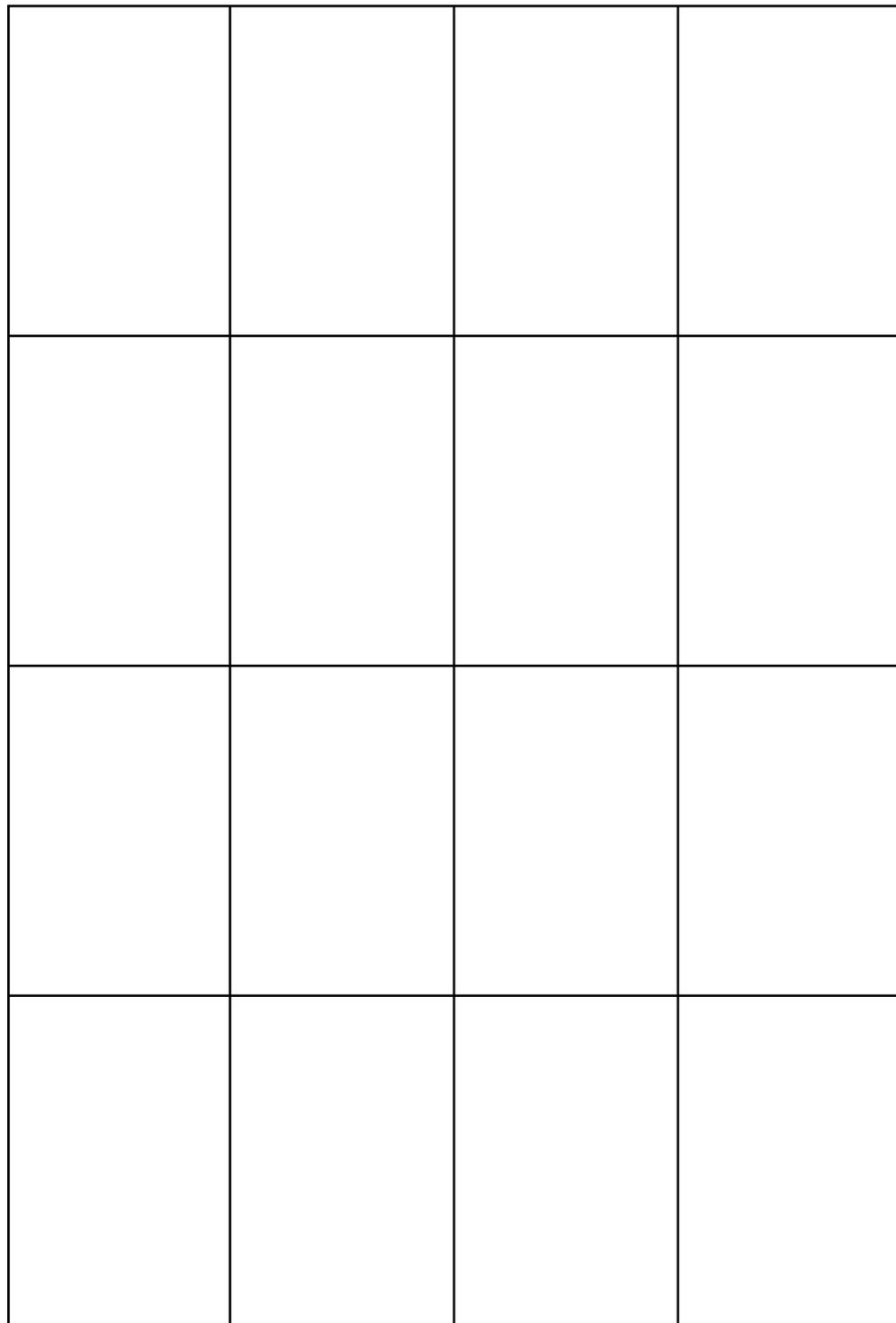
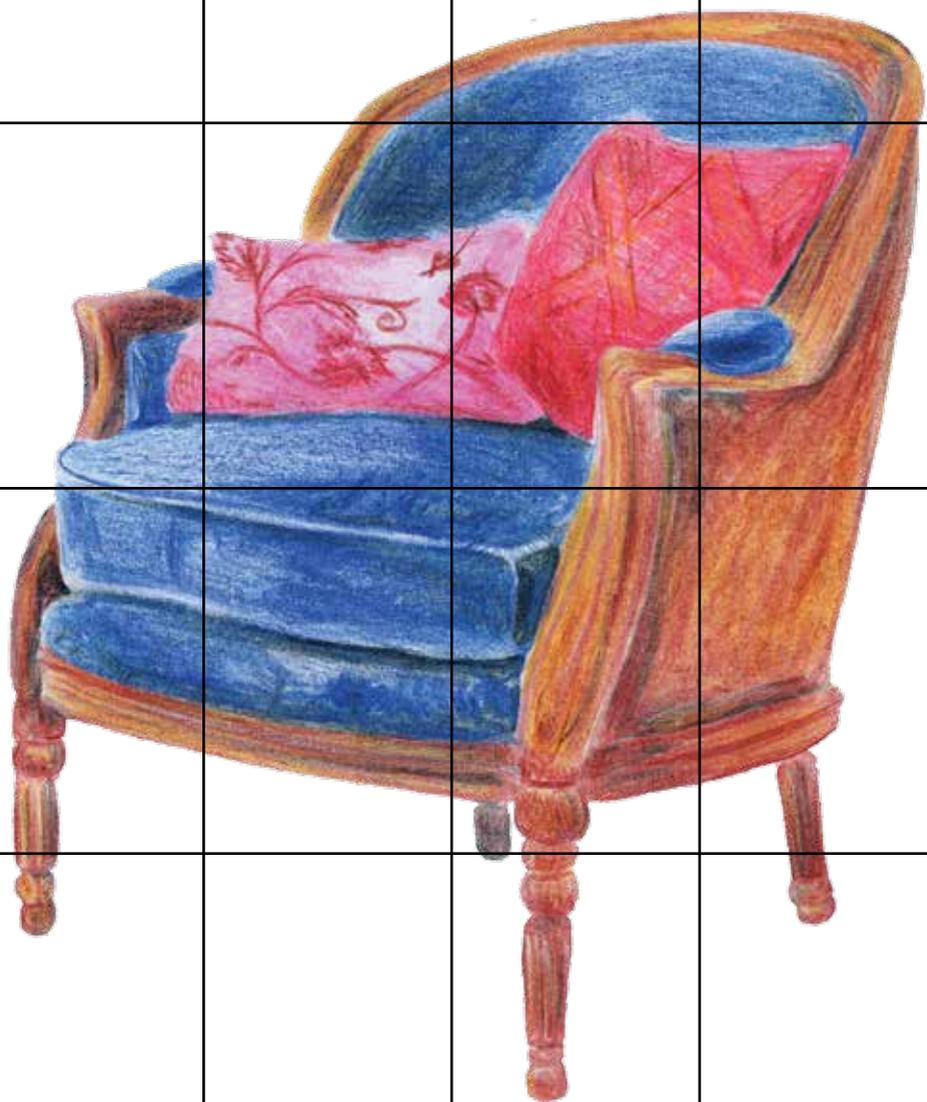
low res



MEDIUM



HARD



# Chapter 9 Positive attitude

## Your attitude towards your child is crucial to their development.

The one thing that has been consistent over my 23 years of teaching art has been people remembering somewhere in their memory that a teacher, parent or friend criticised their drawing at some point while they were young and it still affects them to this day.

You need to praise your child and have realistic expectations. Firstly, keep in mind the development stages of drawing and how it takes some children longer than others to reach each level... but know that they all ultimately have the ability to achieve this eventually. Criticism at this point will have a negative impact on your child, so find some things you like or, more importantly, ask your child what they like about their drawings, and enjoy the journey together.

You can have a positive input by finding two or three good things about the drawing, and then mentioning just one thing they could do to improve the work if they wanted to. This way, you are still on-board with them and they will feel positive about their development. If you are drawing with them, collaborate by asking them to say some positive comments about your drawings, and discussing what they think you could do to improve them. This way it will become normal to discuss progress. You can do this from time to time, but it is also good to draw for fun and not to over-analyse the work too much.



# Chapter 10 Growth mindset

The process of drawing is about a journey, not the end destination, and experimenting, being messy, marking mistakes, enjoying, creating, discovering, seeing and imagining are all the best bits. If your child is becoming distraught, it may be due to a fixed mindset that needs shifting to a growth mindset. Behaviour such as tearing up work, getting upset or frustrated, not letting people see their work, only displaying the successful work, and being reluctant to try difficult drawing tasks is possibly a sign that your child is putting emphasis on the outcome, instead of enjoying the learning process. This is common and can be changed by emphasising the journey – and the process – as the important parts of learning to draw.

### Growth Mindset

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point – This view creates the love of learning.

### Fixed Mindset

In a fixed mindset, people believe that their most basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates

missing text?

# Chapter 11

## Get out and draw

Subtle and fun ways to imbed drawing into your everyday life.

### Government Public Health England Briefing Paper:

“Too much time in front of screens – including TV and computer games – combined with a sedentary lifestyle is taking its toll on our children’s wellbeing and increasing their anxiety.”

There is increasing evidence to suggest that too much screen time is not good for children and common sense tells us that being more physical is better than being in front of a computer screen. Here are some suggestions to get children off the computer and stimulating their creative side.



### Why not draw a masterpiece on their bedroom wall?

Removable wallpaper is a way to allow children to draw on walls. Simply take the wallpaper off when your child has finished.

Children love to decorate their surroundings and understandably lots of parents will find children drawing over walls alarming, but there are ways to compromise and enjoy this.

### Compromise.

If it is a bedroom to be decorated, perhaps a small area or just one wall will be achievable. You can use the dimensions of the wall on a smaller

scale to plan your design with the help of good quality reference materials. Use household paint or acrylic paint – either is suitable.

Another way to achieve these goals is to have a designated ‘drawing wall’ so your child can draw on the wall safe in the knowledge that this is a way of exercising their drawing skills and that it will probably be painted over at some point.

Your child can also draw outside on the floor, in the garden or on the walls using chalk – it is a great material because the rain will eventually wash away the drawing, ready for another design next time.

## Cards

Encouraging your child to make sets of birthday cards, Christmas cards, etc., is a great way to get creative. They could draw one image and write a message on the cards with, or encourage your child to make individual personalised cards to show off their skills and find relevance in this wonderful, relaxing activity. Instead of buying cards, they could start a life-long habit of making their own, saving money and doing it at the same time.

should this be in out and about?

## Outside

Going outside and drawing is a great way to spend time together and do a physical activity. Taking photos is a fun way of recording people, places and objects, and a brilliant way to collate a collection of images which can be printed out and used as examples to draw from. If you only have a phone and not a printer, then locate the photo on your device and draw the picture straight from the screen.

Bringing the outside back home is a great way to get some still life objects to make small studies from.

Being outside and looking for things to draw can make you focus on the wonders of nature. Get together a small collection of things to draw with, like a couple of coloured pencils and a ballpoint pen, tear or fold some scrap paper and put it in a sandwich bag.



## Holiday

Going on holiday can give you and your child lots of opportunities to draw. Try bundling a pen and five or six coloured pencils up with some scrap paper into a sandwich bag – the smaller the better. A6 is a particularly good size as it can fit into pockets with ease. Alternatively, you could fold A5 paper into a makeshift sketchbook.

When you are at your destination, find a place both you and your child love and draw it. It may be a beach, the area surrounding a swimming pool or even part of your accommodation. Get your drawing things out and do what feels best – either make lots of quick sketches, draw small parts of objects or places, or try to create a panoramic drawing. When you look at these images months later you will recall so much more than if you took a quick photo on your phone.

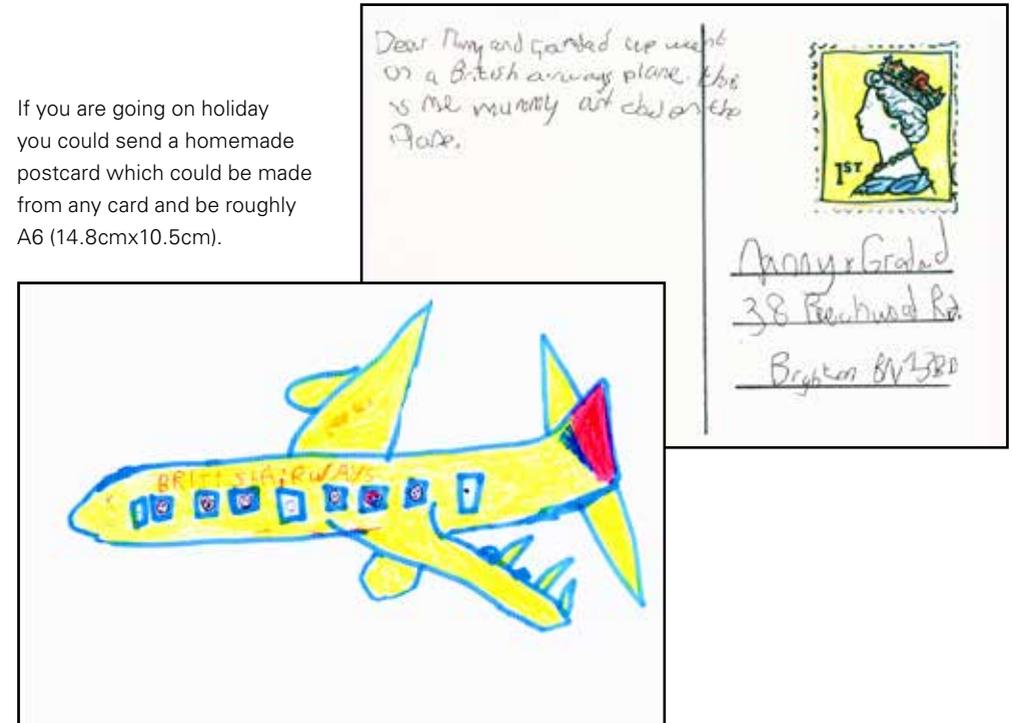
Going to galleries can be an opportunity to look at art work then be inspired to create your own art work.

Visiting galleries such as the Tate Britain and Tate Modern are free and child friendly. They have lots of opportunities for children to explore art and as long as you don't use a flash you can take photos of the works.

## Games

Art games, such as the 'Two Picture Game', are great while travelling – you can play them on the plane, in the airport, in the car, or on a train trip, and 'Code Breaker' is a good one for long journeys too.

If you are going on holiday you could send a homemade postcard which could be made from any card and be roughly A6 (14.8cmx10.5cm).



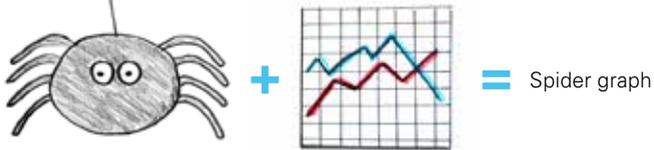
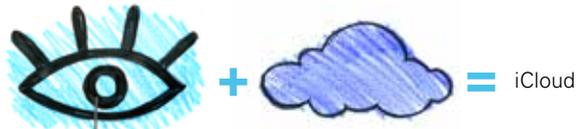
# Chapter 12 Art games

This is an opportunity for your child to enjoy drawing with their relatives. The Symbol System is required here, be sure to read about the symbol system? to recognise symbols in order to play the games.

## Game 1: Words together

A blurb about the game here??

Below are some symbols you can use to start your own game.



## Game 2: Code Breaking

Not strictly a drawing game but symbols can be used in place of vowels and to make the game more interesting a few consonants can be added, you can indicate this or it will be very complicated.

### Try this example

Then use this blank as a template or use a plain piece of paper to make your own up.

Th♦ c+t s+t ■n th♦  
m+t \*n th♦ m×d



### Shape game

Draw a 3D shape, then on a piece of A4 paper each person has to draw as many different objects as they can think of that are made up of that shape. The person with the most wins.

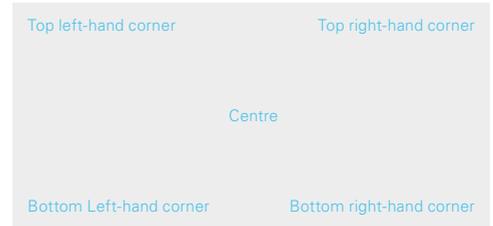
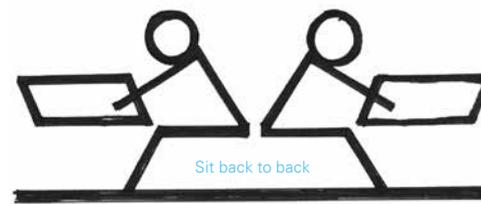


### Back to Back game

Hilarious and funny game to be played with one person giving instructions and usually 1 drawing from them although it can be more than one person. At the end both parties compare the results. For best results only the person giving the instructions speaks. The person following is not allowed to ask any questions or for the instructions to be repeated. The instructions are to be shapes and lines, with a variety of positions and sizes.

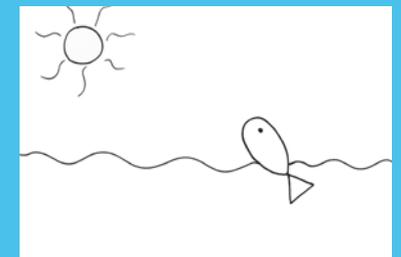
### Useful list of commonly used shapes, lines and prepositions.

no shape refs?



### Try this example before you start the game

- Turn the paper landscape and roughly half way up, draw a curvy horizontal line from one end of the page to the other.
- Then to the right of the paper draw an oval shape about the size of your thumb overlapping the curvy line and at a slanted angle. Draw a triangle attached to the bottom end of the oval shape with the top of the triangle touching the bottom of the oval.
- At the other end of the oval draw a small dot inside the oval shape.
- At the top left hand side of the paper draw a circle.
- Draw a curvy line coming out of that circle. The line should be about the size of the circle. Then repeat this until there are curvy lines all around the circle.
- Turn to the drawing on the back page to compare your drawing.



# Teach Your Child to Draw

This is a basic and easy to use guide on how to encourage your child to draw even if you have no drawing skills. It contains illustrations by children, advice on drawing and ideas to help your child confidently draw.

## Why draw?

It is important to know why we draw, so we can maximise our involvement in the process and appreciate this unique human activity.

We draw to communicate with each other, whether that is to pass on instructions, information, warnings or more.

For thousands of years, we have told stories, and have used symbols as a display of wealth or power.

We need drawings in our everyday lives to communicate the layout of buildings, both inside and out, and to design the clothes we wear.

So why is it important to learn to draw if you are not going to become an artist or use art directly in your future? This is a good question, and is one which I have thought about over my career. In a nutshell, it is too important an activity to ignore. It is not just about pursuing a career in it – the physical act of drawing is so important that it can be pursued as a hobby alone. If you study an object, place or person, you will gain insight into your subject that would just not be possible otherwise.

keeping this text?