

Parents Can Help Children Increase Interest in Art, Music

A youngster came running home from kindergarten and demanded that his mother acquire for him immediately a pair of pistols, two holsters and a gun belt.

"Whatever for?" his mother inquired. "Surely you don't need them for school?"

"Yes, I do," was his reply. "tomorrow the teacher is going to teach us to draw!"

Some children may have a special talent in music or art, but all children like to sing, dance and draw a little. Teachers encourage your child in this creative effort because they know the more ways he has to express himself, the happier he will be.

ART IN SCHOOL for the primary child may mean finger paints, clay, paper and scissors, big chunk crayons. In the middle grades he branches out to a variety of materials—linoleum blocks, oil paints, charcoal, paper-mache. In the upper elementary grades he pays a great attention to detail in art and may enjoy design, map-making and detailed pictures.

As teachers work along with your child, encouraging him to experiment, they will also be exposing him to beautiful things that develop his sensitivity and appreciation of form, color and proportion — art from galleries and museums, reproductions surrounding him in the classroom, examples of good design

in furniture, silverware and other things.

MUSIC INSTRUCTION, like art, starts as an outlet for your child's feelings and carries him along to real appreciation, and sometimes, to skillful performance. In the earliest years he discovers melody and tempo by playing rhythm games, learning simple songs and hearing recordings of fine music. In the intermediate and upper elementary grades, he learns to read music, to understand notes and about individual instruments.

Teachers know that music is not a special thing intended for special people, but that every child has his own ways of making and

sponding to music. Good music is woven into the fabric of every school day through recordings, tapes, school concerts and broadcastists.

THE MICHIGAN and National Associations list useful ways to help heighten your child's creativity and interest in art and music:

Give your child materials to work with at home—not just coloring books, but paste and paint, clay and crayons, wood and nails, bells, and drums.

Reproductions of good prints are plentiful and inexpensive. Turn your kitchen, or his room into "art exhibits." You don't need to frame the pictures—stick them to the walls with tape and change them frequently. Display your child's work, too.

On gift wrapping occasions, let young children finger-paint gay

designs on shiny shelf paper for wrappings or crayon pictures on index cards for name tags.

Take your child for short visits to art galleries.

At Christmas, show him how to twist pipe cleaners into figures, how to gild nuts and shells with colorful beads, how to wire small bells together for packages. Ten-year-olds can make impressive mobiles using thin wire hangers, bent and hung with small tree ornaments and shapes cut from aluminum foil.

Have music in your home—play your own fine records when your child is around.

Take him to concerts—Christmas carol festivals, band concerts, children's symphony performances.

Let your child be his own music-maker as well as a listener. Bells, mouth organ and drums can help him learn rhythm.

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