

# Creative and Mental Growth



## Stages of Development in Children's Drawings

by Gail Phinney

Based on the work of Viktor Lowenfeld

# Scribble Stage Ages 2 – 4



**disordered**



**longitudinal**



**circular**



**naming**

# **Pre-schematic Stage Ages 4-7**

- This stage grows out of scribbling – which is a purely kinesthetic activity.
- Now the child is trying to consciously create things that have a relationship to the world around them.
- The beginning of graphic communication in the form of symbols, it gives parents and teachers insight to what the child is thinking and how they see the world around them.



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# **Schematic Stage Ages 7-9**

- After much experimentation, a young child arrives at a definite concept of man and his environment.
- The “schema” is the concept at which the child has arrived and repeats over and over.
- This is very individualized for each child.





# **Dawning Realism (The Gang Age)**

## **Ages 9-12**

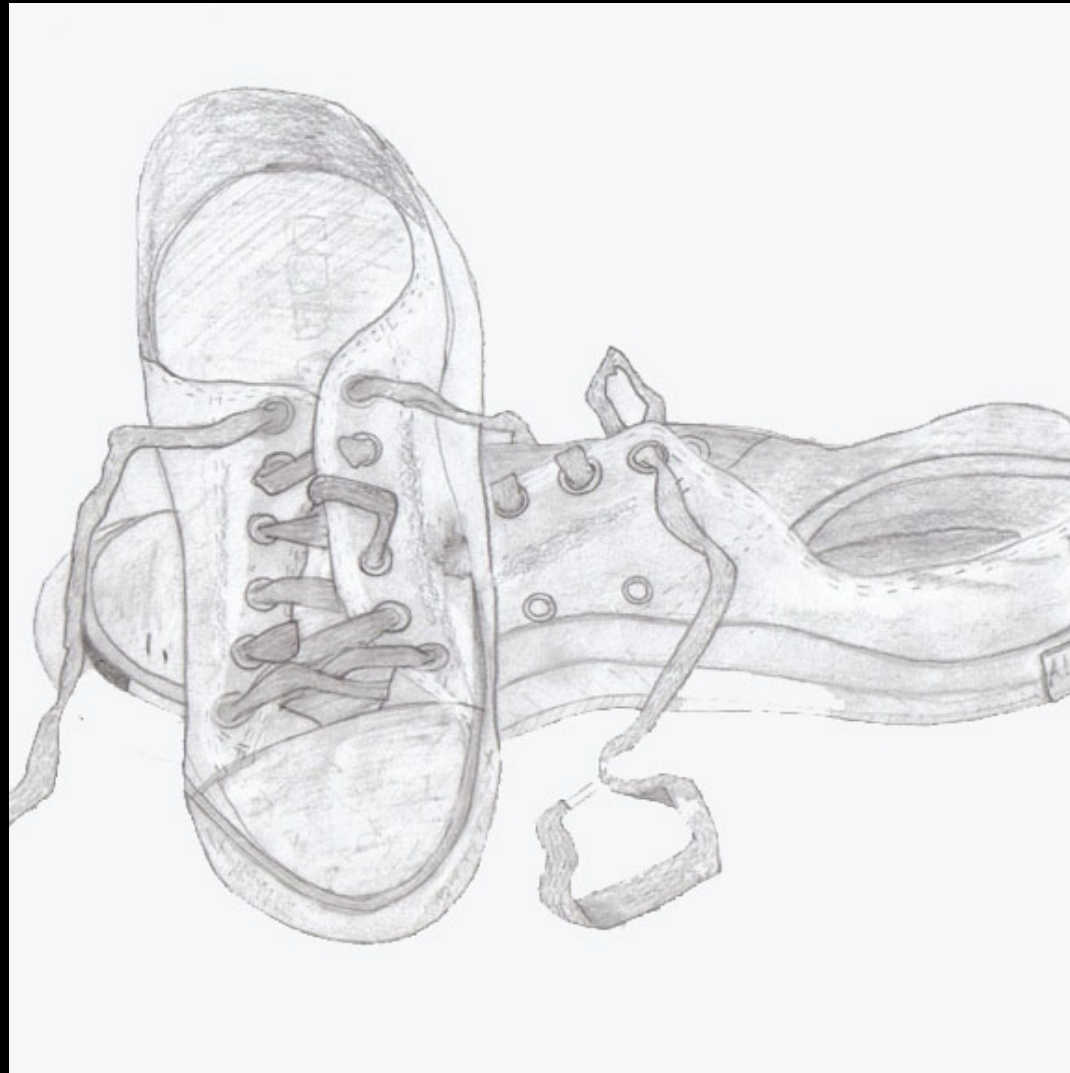
- The most outstanding characteristic of this age is the child's discovery that he is a member of society – a society of his peers.
- The child exhibits increasing social independence from adults.
- This is the beginning of self-discovery and identity.





# Pseudo-Naturalistic (Stage of Reasoning)

## Ages 12-14



So What's  
My Point?



# Here's My Point

- Know what children can and cannot do at certain ages.
- Recognize that as a parent, you are an expert in early childhood development.
- Trust your instincts.
- Listen to the children.
- Be flexible.
- Enjoy yourself!

Thank you to Skyler and Cotter  
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