



2020

2021

## **AAYF – DISTANCE LEARNING TEACHER/PARENT/DOCENT TIPS**

Art At Your Fingertips mission is to enhance a child’s creative and mental growth through meaningful art experiences in a non-judgmental environment. With every project the purpose is to enhance a child’s visual perception and awareness.

### **SETTING UP:**

Don’t stress! You got this.

These projects are meant to be easy to facilitate and fun for the students.

- Want to protect your workspace? Use a vinyl (reusable) or plastic tablecloth, newspaper, old towel, etc.
- Use what you’ve got - creative supply choices are encouraged!

### **SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT:**

While the project video will do the teaching, here are some helpful tips to keep in mind

1. Nothing is a mistake.

- Encourage the child to look at what s/he considers a mistake from another point-of-view and discover a new path to creative expression

2. Try to **avoid being hands-on** with your child’s artwork

- By doing the project themselves, they will experience more of the benefits of creating.
- If you feel you need to demonstrate something, **do it on your own paper.**

3. Allow for involvement and **experimentation with materials.**

- Materials often provide sufficient motivation.
- Experimentation leads to discovery.

4. **Embrace (a bit of) mess.**

- If a child is worried or distracted by thoughts of keeping things neat or clean, they are unable to fully engage in the process of creation & discovery.



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- While it is important to respect the materials (e.g. we don't intentionally paint our hands, faces or furniture with artist's paint - it is made for the paper), a bit of mess is to be expected.
- To avoid disappointment, have your child wear "grubbies" (clothes you don't mind getting paint on), an apron, or a smock (an adult's old shirt or t-shirt).
- Note: Some kids have tactile sensitivities and are uncomfortable with some materials (e.g. pastels, paints). In this case, nitrile gloves can help (latex-free, disposable).

5. Know that ***anxiety and frustration are often preludes to creativity***. If your child gets stuck or wants to start over, try to encourage them to keep going. A great thing about art is there are no mistakes! (See #1.)

6. Understand ***some children want to be left alone*** in the process of creating.

7. Hit pause. ***"Studio time" is a term for a quiet pause in instruction while your student artist explores and creates.*** This is where artists get into their "flow." Don't feel you need to fill time by talking or teaching.

8. Art At Your Fingertips ***focus is on the process, not the final product.*** If your child's completed work is not a masterpiece - or maybe not even finished - that doesn't mean the project was not successful! The goal is NOT to make a look-alike of the instructor's work.

9. Creating art is a very personal experience. ***It's healthy for students to feel confident in their choices and take pride in their own work,*** rather than feeling the need to please someone else with their art. Rather than over-praising, find something(s) specific to remark about, e.g. "I really like how you used this color / made this shape / designed your \_\_\_\_\_." If they ask you if you like it, turn the question around, e.g. I want to hear what you - the artist - think about it first." "Tell me about it."

10. Honor the child above all.