



kids therapy made simple

# Developmental Stages of Drawing

## Learning to Draw

Everyone is an artist, right? All you need is a large sheet of paper and a fat, dark crayon.

Starting at around 15 months if you give your child any kind of writing implement, they should begin to make marks on a paper. It doesn't really matter what those initial marks look like, as long as something is left on the paper. At this age drawing is more of a motor activity than a representational image.

The "Developmental-Stage Theory" assumes that as your child ages, they begin to progress through the sequential order of the stages of drawing. It's often difficult to pinpoint a specific chronological age to these stages since many factors contribute to a child's development in art. However, the following is a loose guide on the stages of drawing and when your child should reach each stage.

## The Scribble Stage

### Random Scribbling

This typically occurs around 2 years of age with the child's first mark. The duration of this stage is impacted by such things as a child's muscle development, motor coordination and quantity and frequency of opportunity.



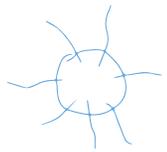
### Controlled Scribbling

This stage typically occurs around 2½ - 4 years of age when children begin to draw shapes such as circle, ovals and eventually squares and triangles.



### Naming Scribbling

This typically occurs around 3 - 5 years of age when the child begins to name their objects. A circle now is a sun. Lines out of the circle are the sun's rays. This is a significant act as the child can now easily identify what they have drawn.



## The Preschematic Stage



This stage typically occurs around 3 - 6 years of age. The child produces their first representational symbol - typically a person - created with circles and lines. Later, other forms develop. Whatever is most important to them is depicted large in the drawing, and these drawing usually center around what a child is *thinking*, not what is in front of them.

## The Schematic Stage

This stage typically occurs around 6 - 8 years of age. This stage is marked by the presence of a 'schema' (habitually repeated symbol for an object). The schema represents the child's knowledge of the subject. There is a definite order in this stage of drawing and everything sits on the baseline.



Without further instruction and practice a few children will reach a plateau during this stage.