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Scribble Pictures

Here's an activity that is sure to enhance children's visual imagination.

Students are first encouraged to do some specialized scribbling. Then, after papers are covered with loops, dives and squiggles, they are directed to find — and develop — images within their scribbles.

Say to students:

Today, you are going to be doing some fast and furious scribbling. Be sure to fill up the whole sheet of paper, and try to make a lot of scribbles that are on top of each other.

Start by making a lot of loopy scribbles — ones that go around and around.

Now, make some scribbles that are pointy.

Make some scribbles that go up and down and sideways.

Make some scribbles that are as big as you can without going off the paper.

Finally, make some very little scribbles.

Stop! Now it's time to make some things out of your scribbles. You may have to use your imagination a little bit, but you can do it!

First, find one place in your scribbles that looks like a piece of fruit, maybe an orange or a banana. Make the outline dark so that it will stand out. If you need to add some other details to make it look more like a piece of fruit, go ahead.

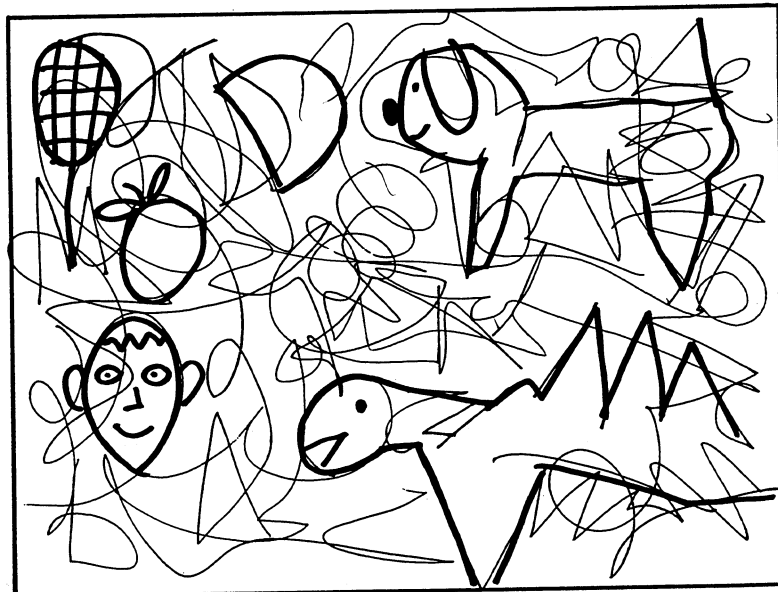
Now, find one place in your scribbles that looks like an alphabet letter. Make it darker so we can see it. If you can find other alphabet letters, outline them, too.

Is there a face in your scribbles somewhere? Find it and make it stand out. Remember, you can always add more details.

How about a dinosaur? If you can't find a whole dinosaur, just the head and neck will be okay.

Certainly there must be a piece of sports equipment somewhere — a tennis racquet, baseball bat, football, or something. Find it and make it darker.

Now, find a place in your scribbles that could be turned into an animal. I'll want to see what you did.



A typical scribble picture.

The Climbing Tree

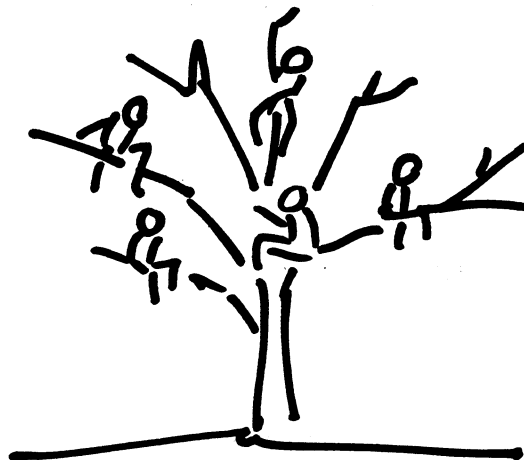
The element of surprise plays an important part in this exercise, since students won't know where your beginning directions will lead them. Don't tip off the surprise. They'll be up a tree before they know it!

Say to students:

Position your paper so that one of the short sides is nearest to you. Next, draw a nice straight line all the way across your paper about two inches from the bottom.

Now, in the upper half of your paper, draw five circles. Make each circle about the size of a pea. Be sure to scatter the circles so that they're not too close to each other, and remember to put them in the upper half of your paper.

Surprise! You have just made the faces of five people, and guess where they are — in the world's best climbing tree! Make a picture showing the tree and the people. Use the line at the bottom of your paper as the ground. Put in as many details as you can.



Number Drawings

Good poetry it isn't — but this assignment gives you a nice way to unwind from something more serious. It also keeps those art perfectionists from becoming too uptight!

Say to students:

What we're going to do now has something to do with numbers, but it isn't math. I'm going to give you 10 things to draw, and you can arrange them on the paper any way you like.

Draw a one standing in the sun.

Draw a two looking at you.

Draw a three very care-ful-ly.

Draw a four walking through a door.

Draw a five learning to drive.

Draw a six made out of sticks.

Draw a seven thinking about an eleven.

Draw an eight with lines that are straight.

Draw a nine on a day that is fine.

Draw a ten being carried by some men.

