Draw a place to explore



Ages 2-5 | 10-15 minutes

You'll need

A large sheet of paper and chunky, washable, nontoxic crayons suitable for your child's age.

Your child's role

Make lines, shapes or marks, then decide whether they could become a place to visit. A looping line might be a road; a patch of color might be a pond. Follow a route with a finger and add something along the way.

Your role

Give the marks time to develop. Comment on what you notice: "Your line goes right across the paper." Let your child decide what the drawing means, including whether it means anything at all.

Make it easier

Offer two crayons and let your child explore making marks. A map can wait until it interests them.

Extend the play

"Where could we go next?" Add a new destination, a second route or a place for the story characters to meet.

What they're practicing

Handling a drawing tool, making choices and using marks to represent ideas when they are ready.