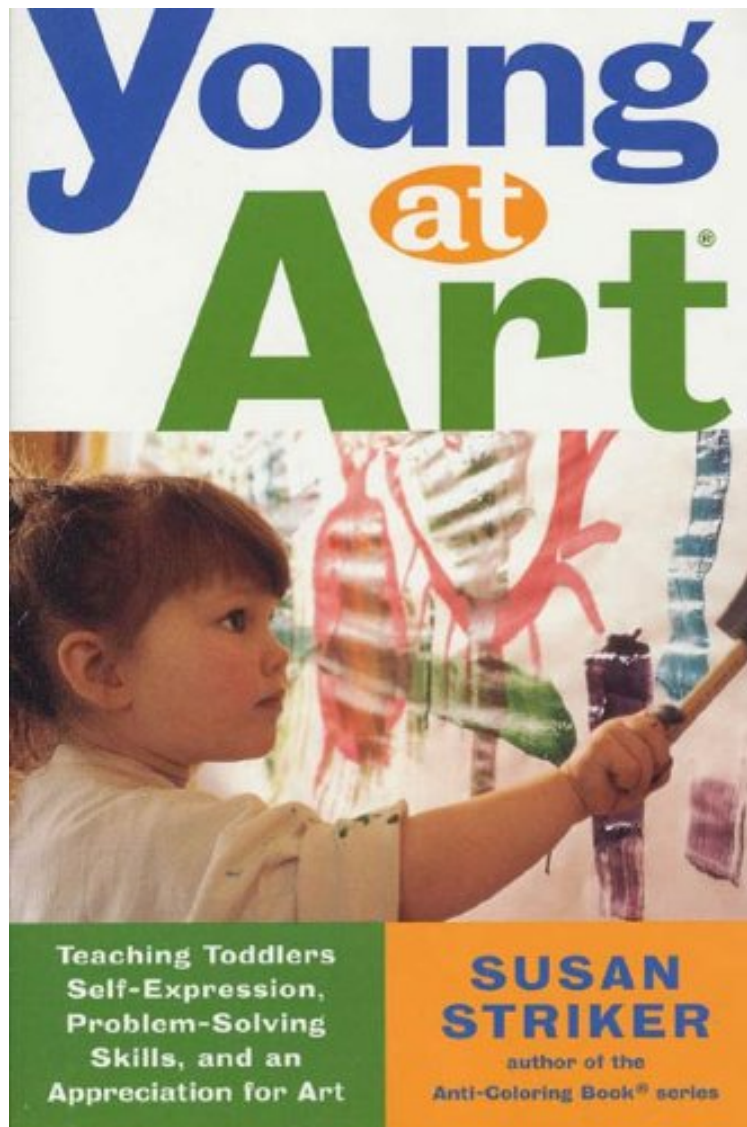


[Free download] Young at Art: Teaching Toddlers Self-Expression, Problem-Solving Skills, and an Appreciation for Art

Young at Art: Teaching Toddlers Self-Expression, Problem-Solving Skills, and an Appreciation for Art

Susan Striker

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Susan Striker : Young at Art: Teaching Toddlers Self-Expression, Problem-Solving Skills, and an Appreciation for Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Young at Art: Teaching Toddlers Self-Expression, Problem-Solving Skills, and an Appreciation for Art:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. excellent book from wonderful womanBy LMSLiving near Susan Striker, I have had the opportunity to meet her on several occasions including having my oldest children (only at the

time) participate in workshops with her. She is fabulous! The ideas in the book are easily incorporated and make a huge difference I think in inspiring children to work at their own level and enjoy the process. It has also helped me as a parent and home educator to feel more confident in guiding the process as well as selecting those rare excellent programs for children in art. Too many even "art schools" focus too much on the outcome or product. Doing it at home actually allows the children to be more of themselves. I also have personally witnessed the effects education wise on my children. My oldest is now 7 and reading at a junior high level. I followed this book and he was, on his own, writing his letters, name, etc at age 3 (well before his personal peer group) and I think this is because of the freedom giving to him in experimenting before then. His early markings were deemed valuable by us and so he kept wanting to do more and then copy us. I am purchasing another copy of this book for my sister and her just turning one year old son so they can enjoy art together as well. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The only comprehensive resource for art approach for preschool and below By Travel Lover It changed my outlook so much that I would let my kid paint my car. (Am not bold enough for the walls yet). I also did not get frustrated when she wanted to do things her own way (paint my face or her doll instead of paper or just mix and transfer colors instead of painting or when she hated to be corrected - be it in scissors holding or art redirection. This book helped me understand her outlandish requests so much so that art has become a regular activity in our day initiated by the child. Wonderful resource. 21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Possibly the most important parenting book I've come across By smilla If you're reading reviews of this book, you're probably a parent who is interested in ways to foster your child's creative development. This book has been a revelation for me, and I would highly recommend it to fellow parents of toddlers. For those of us with little to no art education, this book is a complete resource for guiding young children through their early years with the appropriate art materials and encouragement. Covering drawing, painting, sculpture and collage, the author explains the importance of free experimentation with the media, and cautions parents against interfering with the creative process in ways that many of us may mistakenly have considered "helpful". I agree with another reviewer, who states that this information may cause pangs of guilt in those of us who have made mistakes in this area. However, the author indicates that her sequencing of art activities that build on previous experiences can be started later in toddlerhood and still be effective. I have started to weave many of the ideas from the book into our daily lives, e.g., greater availability/visibility of art materials, starting simply with black and white to focus on the drawing/painting process, encouragement with avoidance of judgemental commentary, and even borrowing and reading library books that support the concept at hand (be it color, or shape). After a couple of weeks, I have already noticed that my 2.5 year old twin boys are more interesting in working with the materials - we have a huge and growing pile of original artwork! Also, I feel much more confident as a parent in this area since I am working with the advice of a well-known art educator. Prior to this, I was getting ideas from "busy books", that mostly covered crafts that would be largely done by me and be of little benefit to my children in any way. Also, in case this helps anybody who uses this books and seeks out art materials online, I had the best success with ClassroomDirect.com (I am not affiliated with them in any way!)

From the creator of the bestselling Anti-Coloring Book series with more than 600,000 copies sold, a new parenting guide to encouraging creativity in preschool-age children *Young at Art* is the first and only comprehensive book for the general audience about the nature, value and impact of art on very young children. Directed towards parents and educators of one to five year olds, Susan Striker explains why children's art is not a frill, but the very foundation upon which all later fundamental skills are built. She drives home the idea that encouraging children's artistic growth will have beneficial effects on all other aspects of their emotional and intellectual development. At the core of this practical guide is the understanding that art is an important tool in teaching young children crucial concepts related to self-expression, reading and writing. As opposed to more structured exercises, such as coloring on dittos and underlining pictures in workbooks, Striker stresses that scribbling and free drawing experiments are the most important art activities a child can engage in; they better prepare children to read independently as they grow. *Young at Art* provides descriptions for age-appropriate art activities, tips for carrying them out safely, and helps parents recognize what a child's art work should look like at each stage of development. With *Young at Art*, parents will develop realistic expectations of their children's work, learn how to speak to their children about their art, and facilitate skills well beyond their creativity that will benefit children.

.com Filled with great ideas and enthralling art activities, *Young at Art* introduces parents and caregivers to a fascinating world that Montessori teachers will find wonderfully familiar. Author Susan Striker created the delightfully different Anti-Coloring Book series and now turns her considerable talents to explaining concepts of child development in a manner that all of us can enjoy. She passionately believes that children can use artistic tools and methods as gateways to all forms of learning, from vocabulary building to early math skills and improved dexterity, and cautions parents to rethink the way we look at art materials. Pipe cleaners form wire sculptures far more detailed than their typical role as bug antenna, and toddlers can have a better experience painting with only one or two colors than they would with an entire palette that instantly turns a muddy brown. Including a wide range of group and

individual activities for all age ranges (and even songs to sing during cleanup time), this book is a priceless addition to an art-loving family. Jill Lightner From Library Journal Art educator Striker, best known for her popular "Anti-Coloring Book" series, here outlines numerous ways to help toddlers experience art. Interestingly, while she stresses thinking "outside of the box," Striker still offers "Ten Cardinal Rules for Teaching Creative Art." These generally conflict with our societal norms (e.g., Rule No. 6 says, "Never give a child coloring books. There is no value for a child completing something another person created"), so they may be hard for some parents to swallow. She also provides suggestions on how to comment encouragingly on children's artwork, but they seem oddly neutral. Rather than saying how pretty a cloud is, for instance, the author proposes remarking on the sketch's color and shape because the child may not have drawn a cloud at all. Striker, too, is opposed to the use of safety scissors, which may make some preschool teachers uncomfortable. This work would have also benefited from more defined and colorful illustrations and photographs (only black-and-white pencil sketches are present). But while the author's progressivism can be off-putting, *Young at Art* will give larger public libraries and those supporting childhood educators an important alternative to the many "copycat" pattern books on the market. Readers will indeed find value in Striker's comprehensive bibliography of art books and resources for young children, charts for educators about artistic concepts, and ideas on making art connections. Recommended. Lisa Powell Williams, Moline P.L., IL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

About the Author Susan Striker has been an art educator for more than twenty-five years and currently teaches elementary school art in Greenwich, Connecticut. She is the recipient of Connecticut's Celebration of Excellence Award for Creativity in the Classroom and has been named a Distinguished teacher by the Greenwich public schools. In addition to the *Anti-Coloring Book* series, she is the author of *Please Touch*. She lives in Easton, Connecticut.