

## **Are you on the right track? Can drawing and music add a lot to your child's personality?**

- **Different forms of art have always been a kind of translation tool to reflect the inside of the inner soul, and to let the negative energy out, keeping the good positive energy inside, whether it is (playing musical instruments, drawing pictures or making pottery or clay). The created art productions are always a reflection of an individual's development, abilities, personality, interests, concerns and conflicts Human developmental and psychological theories, which are implemented in the full spectrum of models of assessment and treatment, including educational, psychodynamic, cognitive, trans personal artistic expression can be used towards in such a beneficial way. The list of benefits includes means of reconciling emotional conflicts, fostering self-awareness, developing social skills, managing behavior, solving problems, reducing anxiety, aiding reality orientation and increasing self-esteem.**
- **Art educators, worldwide are now; discovered that the free and spontaneous art expression of children represented is a form of communication, both emotional and symbolic communications. Since then this outcry of expression is now developing into a recognized. The profession of art has grown into an effective and important method of communication.**

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In modern Syria, ministry of education has found out the importance of art and its activities. And how it can add to the personality of each child in Syria. To start within initial step was introducing giving art classes as part of the National Curriculum and printing out books for the earlier years ( from Grade 1 to grade 4), which has added a new dimension to their education adding a lot to the Syrian curriculum, and giving our new generation a new brighter perspective look onto the future.

*The Massar* Organization is one of 4 branches created by *the Syrian Development Trust* in an effort to reinforce art and creativity in childhood. They organized an inspirational workshop recently, where children designed their dream park with the help of architectural students in Leticia. They are effectively focusing on our children who will be the builders of our future in Syria.

The Adham Ismail Centre of Visual Art was established in Damascus by the Ministry of Culture in 1959, and named on April 10<sup>th</sup> 1968 for the late Syrian artist. From the beginning, major Syrian artists and educators have worked in the centre and participated with their Syrian and international peers in joint workshops. Whether they are children, teenagers or adults, the centre aims at developing their artistic talents and providing these students with the space and the artistic education to enable them to create works of art. Age and educational background do not matter at the Adham Ismail Centre, all that matters is talent.

***Adam Ismail* was a famous Syrian artist who lived from 1922- 1963, studied in Italy and lived and worked in Syria as a fine arts teacher in high schools in Damascus and Aleppo, finally becoming a teacher in the College of Fine Arts and a councilor in the Ministry of Culture in the late fifties. He was one of the pioneers of the art scene in Syria, starting drawing lessons in the fifties and sixties in Syria and creating beautiful works of art. The Center dedicated to his name now fosters different art styles, including painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, etching – it is a center focusing on individuality. Located in Shah-Bandar Square in Damascus, it runs summer courses for children and winter courses for teenagers and adults, with small fees for each course and open entry for all.**

**Syria is entering new era with this modern perspective, working towards Syria's future and giving freedom to different aspects of life. We believe that our children are the most important assets we have and we must take care of them as much as we can.**

**Here are some examples of art activities that will build a child's self-esteem:**

**The child can:**

- 1. Draw a picture portraying the things he / she likes about himself / herself**
- 2. Draw a picture that shows what he / she is good at doing**
- 3. Draw a picture of the best idea he / she ever had**

## **Suggestions for Reviewing Artwork with Children:**

- 1 Have the children describe the art in their own words**
- 2. Ask the children to tell more about specific parts of the art - describing actual forms, objects, and people.**
- 3. Ask the children to describe the picture in the "first person" (Caution: although this may be uncomfortable for some children).**
- 4. If the children don't know what something means, an explanation or interpretation can be tentatively suggested. However the interpretation should be checked out with the child's sense of "rightness." If an interpretation falls flat, it may be incorrect or merely timed incorrectly.**
- 5. Colors can be used realistically or idiosyncratically and can be used in different ways at different times. (Developmentally young children do not use colors realistically).**
- 7. Sometimes take the picture literally, but sometimes go for the opposite of what is there (for example, a super-hero reflecting a child's self-confidence can mean overcompensating for a weak self-image).**
- 8. Let the children draw at their own Pace.**

