

MEDIA RELEASE



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Creative experiences through the eyes of a child

Once a little boy went to school; he was quite a little boy and it was quite a big school. One morning when the little boy had been in school a while the teacher said, "Today we are going to draw a picture."

"Good", thought the boy. He took out his box of crayons and began to draw. But the teacher said, "Wait, it is not time to begin", and she waited until everyone looked ready. "Now, we are going to make flowers."

"Good," thought the little boy, as he liked flowers and he began to make beautiful ones with pink, orange and blue crayons. But the teacher said, "Wait and I will show you how." And she drew a red flower with a green stem. "There, now you may begin," the teacher said.

The little boy looked at the teacher's flower then looked at his own flower. He liked his flower more than the teacher's. But he did not say this. He just turned his paper over and made a flower like the teacher's. It was red with a green stem and quite soon the little boy learned to wait and watch, and to make things look just like the teacher's. Before long, he no longer used any ideas of his own.

Author unknown.

It is important to remember that children see things differently to adults, especially in the field of art and creative expression. At Churches of Christ Care's Withcott Early Childhood Centre, we believe that if we have activities like colouring-in books and sheets, we are suggesting to children that there is only one way of drawing, and that their own ideas should fit into the narrow patterns prepared by adults. A child once conditioned to colouring books, may have difficulty in enjoying the freedom of creating.

We encourage children to express their own ideas in many different ways. We provide choice, facilitate flexible thinking, spontaneity, playfulness and ways to stretch their imaginations.

Children need to express themselves creatively through a wide range of materials and experiences; that way they can make sense of their world and how they fit into it.

That is why at Churches of Christ Care's Withcott Early Childhood Centre, we have an Art Studio, where children are encouraged to explore and create through a variety of art mediums. And while they are involved in this creative experience, they are learning lots of valuable skills to take them through their school journey.

For more information about Churches of Christ Care's Withcott Early Childhood Centre, please call us on 4630 3722, or drop in and see us.

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About Churches of Christ Care

Churches of Christ Care is a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland—a group of churches that is part of the worldwide Christian church.

We strive to create an inclusive, caring, compassionate environment that meets our clients' needs without discrimination or prejudice. Everyone is welcome to call on our help regardless of their religious background.

Churches of Christ Care is one of Queensland's leading providers of early childhood, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living and aged care services. We are a not-for-profit organisation that supports more than 27,000 clients each year in urban, rural and remote areas.

We operate 137 services throughout Queensland with the support of more than 2,800 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Churches of Christ Care is built on a foundation of Christian values, commitment to quality care, and trust and respect for clients and the community.