

- Child's position in relation to other family members: Expresses feelings of status or alliance
- Exclusion of a member: May denote feeling of not belonging or desire to eliminate
- Accentuated parts: Usually express concern for areas of special importance (e.g., large hands may be a sign of aggression)
- Absence of or rudimentary arms and hands: Suggest timidity, passivity, or intellectual immaturity; tiny, unstable feet may express insecurity; and hidden hands may mean guilt feelings
- Placement of drawing on the page and type of stroke: Free use of paper and firm, continuous strokes express security, whereas drawings restricted to a small area and lightly drawn in broken or wavering lines may be signs of insecurity
- Erasures, shading, or cross-hatching: Expresses ambivalence, concern, or anxiety with a particular area

Magic

Use simple magic tricks to help establish rapport with child, encourage compliance with health interventions, and provide effective distraction during painful procedures.

Although the “magician” talks, no verbal response from the child is required.