

Drawing

Drawing is one of the most valuable forms of communication—both nonverbal (from looking at the drawing) and verbal (from the child's story of the picture).

Children's drawings tell a great deal about them because they are projections of their inner selves.

Spontaneous drawing involves giving child a variety of art supplies and providing the opportunity to draw.

Directed drawing involves a more specific direction, such as “draw a person” or the “three themes” approach (state three things about child and ask the child to choose one and draw a picture).

Guidelines for Evaluating Drawings

Use spontaneous drawings and evaluate more than one drawing whenever possible.

Interpret the drawings in light of other available information about child and family, including the child's age and stage of development.

Interpret the drawings as a whole rather than focusing on specific details of the drawings.

Consider individual elements of the drawings that may be significant:

- Sex of figure drawn first: Usually relates to the child's perception of his or her own sex role
- Size of individual figures: Expresses importance, power, or authority
- Order in which figures are drawn: Expresses priority in terms of importance