

child seems particularly taken with a form, if she seems to really get something from repeatedly drawing and/or moving it (spirals often have this effect) let her get her fill. Do not rush her into something else.

Also, don't be afraid to go back to earlier forms, to repeat things, to do forms over and over again. And if, at any time, your child exhibits imbalances in his writing or drawing, go back to some simple, harmonizing forms: by this working 'sideways' on your child's difficulty, the problem is often resolved without the stress and anxiety of dealing with it head on.

My child gets discouraged when his forms don't come out right - what do I do?

This is a hard one! First you need to assess whether it's because he's just not ready for the forms or because he's got a streak of the perfectionist in him. If it's the former and he's not much past his 6th birthday, this might be a sign that he's actually not ready for first grade work and needs another year of kindergarten. Another possibility is that he hasn't spent enough time in doing the forms with his whole body, in tracing and using the feet. If it's because he's got perfectionist tendencies, that's a tough one. Usually one needs to work long-term on that challenge: working with him 'sideways', letting him know that effort and willingness are sometimes more important than results; that imperfection means there is possibility to always do better. Of course, with a young child under 10 one wouldn't converse with him on such a level: you need to find stories, anecdotes, real life illustrations to help get him through this. You could, for instance, tell a story about how rug makers in what is now Iran always left a little imperfection in their beautiful rugs as a reminder that only Allah is capable of absolute perfection.

Should I let my child do form drawing on the blackboard?

By all means! Drawing forms on a board hung on the wall is a very different experience than drawing flat on paper on a table. This calls up quite different skills, so it could be an excellent way to ensure your child has opportunities to hone various spatial and other skills. Using chalk, though, can be a challenge as it has an annoying habit of breaking at awkward