

## Art Supply Safety

Art is a great way for children to express themselves and a standard part of the elementary school curriculum. Unfortunately, children have been poisoned or injured from improper use of art supplies in the past. Lead based paint, solvents, and certain types of powder pigments are some of the more dangerous art supplies.

The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc (ACMI) tests, certifies, and labels art supplies as “non-toxic”. If you see the ACMI seal on a product, you can be sure that it is free from lead and other toxic substances. Your child may choke or cut himself on any product, even if it has the ACMI seal. Young children always need appropriate parental supervision.

You cannot tell how toxic a substance is from the smell. A highly toxic chemical may have no smell at all, while a perfectly safe marker may have a strong smell. When in doubt, check the label.

Resources:

The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc (ACMI), <http://www.acminet.org/>

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), <http://www.astm.org/>

Arts, Crafts, and Theater Safety, <http://www.artsandcraftstheatersafety.org/>