It’s not just scribbles …. It’s mark making.

It may seem meaningless to parents but to your child, scribbling is an important learning activity. It helps to develop…….

**Fine motor control.** Giving your child the chance to use markers and crayons helps them develop the finger control they needs later to use a fork, write with a pencil or brush their teeth.

**Independence.** A child’s world is full of things they are not allowed to do and things that shouldn't be touched. With a box of crayons and some paper, they have the free to choose which colours, what kind of marks (dots or lines, fast or slow) and where to put her marks on the page. The freedom to make choices and create something on their own helps develop independent thinking.

**Early literacy.** The squiggles and lines your child makes now eventually become more recognizable shapes and letters later. As scribbling develops, your child will learn that marks on the page stand for objects in the world . Knowing that marks and lines can represent things is an early step on the way to learning to read and write .

**Emotional outlet.** Artists often use painting or drawing to express their emotions. Your child may enjoy this, too. Children meet with many frustrations in the course of a day. Your child may not be able to button a shirt or stack blocks into a tall tower or to use words you can understand. The movements and energy they use to draw lets out some of the feelings that build up from frustration.