Kids Art Easel — Buying & Activity Guide

An original companion guide from ZoxDeal. 25 screen-free art activities, buying tips, and setup advice for ages 3–8.

Part 1: Choosing the Right Easel

• **Stability first.** Push the easel gently in the store (or check reviews for tipping complaints). A weighted base matters more than any feature.

• **Height adjustment.** Fixed-height easels get outgrown in a year. Adjustable models (like 37.5–43.5") last from age 3 to 8.

• **Surface count.** Double-sided (whiteboard + chalkboard) plus a paper roll gives three activities in one footprint.

• **Material.** Solid wood outlasts plastic by years. Check for FSC certification and non-toxic finishes.

• **Storage.** Deep trays (1"+) keep supplies from rolling off. Shallow trays are a daily frustration.

• **Refill costs.** Ask what refills cost before buying — paper rolls, markers, and chalk are ongoing expenses.

Part 2: 25 Screen-Free Art Activities (Ages 3–8)

1. Rainbow color-mixing chart: paint primary colors, then mix every combination.

2. Self-portrait on the whiteboard with dry-erase markers.

3. Chalkboard hopscotch numbers: draw, then hop and count.

4. Magnetic letter spelling: spell 10 sight words on the magnetic board.

5. Paper-roll mural: unroll 3 feet and paint a neighborhood scene.

6. Shadow tracing: tape paper up on a sunny day, trace toy shadows.

7. Emotion faces: draw happy/sad/surprised faces, name the feelings.

8. Handprint family tree on the paper roll.

9. Chalk math: solve addition problems on the chalkboard.

10. Whiteboard tic-tac-toe tournament (best of 5).

11. Paint with unusual tools: sponges, cotton balls, toy car wheels.

12. Story comic: draw a 4-panel comic on the paper roll.

13. Color scavenger hunt: find 5 red things in the room, draw them.

14. Symmetry butterflies: fold paper, paint one side, press.

15. Magnetic pattern sequences: ABAB patterns with letter magnets.

16. Chalk obstacle course map: draw the backyard, plan a route.

17. Portrait swap: draw each other, compare results, laugh.

18. Weather window: draw today's weather every morning for a week.

19. Alphabet race: write A–Z on the whiteboard as fast as possible.

20. Paper-roll growth chart: mark height with painted handprints.

21. Mixing lab: predict then test what blue+yellow makes.

22. Chalk mandalas: circular patterns, photograph the best.

23. Story stones: paint rocks, then tell stories using them.

24. Whiteboard grocery list: kids "write" the shopping list with pictures.

25. Gallery night: hang the week's best work with the screw clamps, invite grandparents.

Part 3: Mess-Friendly Setup Tips

• Lay a washable splat mat or old shower curtain under the easel.

• Keep a damp cloth and a dry cloth on the tray at all times.

• Store chalk in a lidded container — chalk dust travels.

• Washable paints only for under-6s. Check the label, not the marketing.

• Trim the paper roll with the clamps loose, then tighten — prevents tears.

• End every session with a 2-minute "gallery cleanup" routine; kids comply when it's ritual.

Part 4: Making Supplies Last

Cap markers immediately — a single uncapped night kills a dry-erase marker. Store paper rolls upright in a dry corner to prevent edge curl. Buy chalk in bulk boxes; it is far cheaper per stick. Rotate which surface the child uses daily so no single board wears out first. Wipe the whiteboard weekly with a damp microfiber cloth to prevent ghosting.

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