



FOURTH ANNUAL **COLORING CONTEST** Parent Supplemental Information

Through the Coloring Contest, Child Care Connections supports community engagement as well as shares some of our values surrounding quality child care! The Coloring Contest demonstrates some of the developmental benefits of early childhood education.

Children who participate in the coloring contest will strengthen:

- Fine motor skills
- Color awareness and recognition
- Spatial Awareness
- Creative development
- Language development and social-emotional development

When children color, they strengthen the small muscles in their wrists and fingers developing stronger fine motor skills that support early writing. When children participate in art, they develop spatial awareness which helps children understand where objects are in relation to each other and themselves. Asking children about the different components in their picture builds descriptive language vocabulary and encourages critical thinking in children. When you ask open-ended questions, you expand your child's curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills. Art expands self-expression and creative thinking through experimentation and storytelling. Asking questions about your child's artwork and spending time with them also strengthens their social-emotional development!

Some open-ended questions that support early learning are:

- What can you tell me about your picture?
- What do you like about your picture?
- Why did you use this color for this part?
- How did you get the idea for this picture?



Don't forget to submit coloring sheets by April, 21st!

Learn more at cccmontana.org/event/LetsColor23