

Third Grade

If you follow the usual Third Grade Waldorf curriculum, you'll have lots of new and exciting drawing adventures with your child! Blocks on Building, Old Testament Stories and Farming all offer interesting possibilities for drawing.

In Building, although I would strongly recommend one emphasize real, practical building projects - even at the expense of doing a Main Lesson block at all - one could make a very nice Main Lesson book with one's child focused on pictures of different kinds of houses from different parts of the world. Don't worry about perspective, i.e. getting the angles and vanishing lines of the houses perfect. A 9 year-old is really too young for that kind of drawing. Let the pictures remain flat or with just general perspective, to indicate depth or distance.

Try a few 'cut-away' pictures of your own house, showing what's behind the walls or under the floors. Get one of David Macaulay's books (*Underground* is probably the best for this) for inspiration - but you won't need to be anywhere at all as detailed as him!

You could also try to make a floor plan of your house or apartment. Some children find this extraordinarily difficult - I'd advise you skip it if your child just can't attain the necessary bird's-eye-view for such a drawing. She may not be mature enough in her inner perspective. In such a situation, I'd wait a year, and try again during the Fourth Grade local geography block.

When you come to the Old Testament, your child could make lovely, colorful drawings of Adam and Eve, the Tower of Babel, and David and Goliath. Psalms or verses from the Bible could be copied into a Main Lesson book and carefully illustrated.

My preference for the Seven Days of Creation is to paint them with watercolors. The dreamy wetness of the paint seems the right medium for capturing the separation of the waters or the creating of the animals.

Noah's Ark is usually popular with children. You might like to do a mural for this picture if you have an especially enthusiastic child who really wants to show *all* the animals! See if you can persuade your child to stick to familiar, easy-to-draw animals (unless he is so confident that he has no qualms about drawing exotic beasts). Those children who try to include bandicoots and wombats may be disappointed with their efforts if the animals don't quite look right!