



Spontaneous drawing by Parker Phillips Allen, 4.5

"I want to get rid of this disgusting name," Parker Phillips Allen

This is as far as Nikki and Parker got. Nikki wrote, "Hi Susan, this was really difficult to do with Parker. He's in a rebellious state of mind. I think we'll try another spontaneous drawing." Parker drew the image above and then wrote. He was very upset by how it turned out, with two A's in his name, instead of one. Getting upset is part of the critical process of language-based thought. It happens because of increased critical awareness.



"Mommy writing them down"
Parker Phillips Allen and his mother, Nikki © permission of Nikki Allen and Christopher Allen.



Quick Tips

A child will find it very stressful if pressure is applied for a milestone he or she is not ready for.



Spontaneous Drawing, Parker Phillips Allen and his mother, Nikki © permission of Nikki Allen and Christopher Allen.

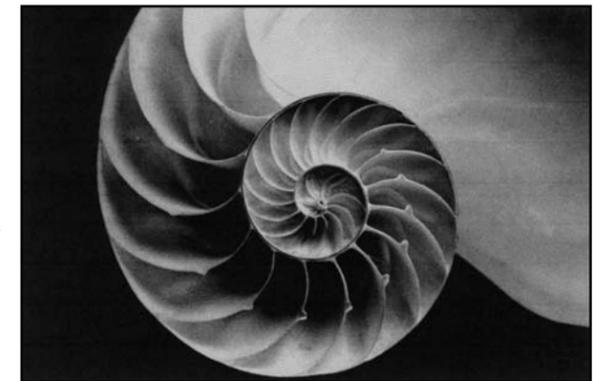
*"I want to do it first before I draw it,"
May 26, 2003, Parker at 4.5 years
old*

What happens when the child becomes frustrated; Parker's mom suggested a spontaneous drawing. Brilliant idea!

Parker' said, "I want to do it first before I draw it," is interesting. Parker seems to be indicating that thinking/visualizing the drawing before he actually does the drawing is part of the process. Parker suggests that his drawing or his signature may be more accurate if he thinks first. In the photo above - where Parker is holding up his marker, he is thinking about the idea of pre-thinking his spontaneous drawing and/or his signature. That's pretty amazing! Thinking about thinking is called meta-cognition. Humans can do it because of language and literacy.



Parker Blind Contour of a saw, age 2



Chambered Nautilus, photo © 1997, Elizabeth Nyman.

When you look at Parker's Blind Contour drawing of a saw, what do you see?

I put my friend, Liz Nyman's, photograph of a chambered nautilus shell on this page to compare it with the spiral in Parker's Blind Contour drawing of the saw. How powerful! How strange!