

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Parent

& child

MARCH 2010

HOW
TO EAT
HEALTHY
ON A BUDGET

LATCHKEY
KIDS
Is your child
old enough to
be home alone?

Creative MINDS

Keeping arts in school • Encouraging
arts at home • Resource guide

momslime.com
where Gulf Coast moms meet

5 things

TO GET KIDS'

CREATIVITY FLOWING

When stocking up for play date activities, a family craft night or just some projects to keep kids busy, there are a variety of products sure to stimulate and last beyond craft time. Here are our top five favorites.

By Jennifer Thomas

LOOK MA, NO MESS

■ This no-mess activity allows endless artistic creations on your television. With Splaster by Fisher Price, kids can easily grip the wireless brush tool and select various design choices to make original Picassos on the screen. On this interactive canvas, kids can paint with spaghetti and splat with whipped cream — without the clean-up afterward. \$54.99, Toys R Us.



FOR THE RENAISSANCE KID

■ The Art Easel by Melissa & Doug provides hours and years of artistic creations and grows with your child's creative ability. From beginners exploring painting to preschoolers practicing their ABCs, this product is a must-have for an artist in the making. Offering a chalkboard, white board, paper for drawing and painting and containers for materials, this art essential is a favorite. \$69.99, Cheshire Cat Fine Toys in the Bell Towers Shops in south Fort Myers.



SACK IT TO 'EM

■ This eco-friendly backpack encourages ongoing artistic fun; and more importantly, when the kids are finished coloring their Kidsack, they have a product they can continue to use. If kids want to sport a different look, they just wash the Kidsack and start again. The fabric is made from 100 percent recycled materials, boasts a variety of screen-printed designs (including sea life and jungle creatures) and comes with washable markers. \$23, Nana's Children's Shop in Naples.

COLOR ME COOKIE

■ Kids can devour Color Your Own Cookies after they've added their personal touches to these organic delights. Beautiful Sweets Organic Bakery sends them iced and ready to decorate with eight food-coloring-based markers in seasonal, sports, girl and boy themes. They're year-round tasty fun for kids (and parents, too). \$15 and up, BeautifulSweets.com.



STICKY MOSAICS

■ The Orb Factory puts a modern twist on paint-by-numbers by incorporating colors and shapes in its Sticky Mosaics. Geared toward toddlers to tweens, projects range from simple pet and sports-themed pictures to colorful jewelry boxes and bangles. Starting at \$9.99, A.C. Moore and Cheshire Cat Fine Toys in south Fort Myers.

