



Pat Bordman

Scribble cookies lift kids' spirits

Crayons can make troubles light
Paints dispel the blues
Do you see it like I do?
What's your point of view?

Leaves aren't always green,
Skies not always blue.
All see things differently,
So paint your own balloon!

—from a poem by
Debbie Hille-Cloutier

Imagine living in a world where anything is possible: where purple cows graze on blue grass, houses are triangular and people have six arms. Young children's worlds often resemble this unlikely landscape when recreated by them on paper.

Young children are not concerned with using color as it appears in nature. Nor do they draw things the way they look through adult eyes.

The young child's thinking is not yet rigid. Young eyes haven't narrowed the world to a circumscribed set of images. Anything is possible to a small child.

Crayons seem to encourage this tendency of the young child to take liberties with perspective. With their intensely bright colors and great range of tones, there is nothing quite like the thick richness of crayon on paper.

THE MATERIALS that a child uses might alter his point of view — especially if the material itself is slightly

altered. If normal crayons can make troubles light, imagine what a scribble cookie will do for the spirit.

Mary Ellen Hurley of Bloomfield Hills suggested these artful cookies:

Peel off the paper wrapping from broken and discarded crayons. Separate the crayons by color and break them into small pieces. Place similar colors into separate sections of an old muffin tin. Mixing different shades of the same color will produce lovely new crayon shades.

Place the muffin tin with the crayon pieces into a warm oven with the heat turned off. Let the crayons melt. When they are fully melted, remove the tin from the oven and allow to cool.

To remove the scribble cookies from the tin, simply run hot water over the back of the tin. The scribble cookies will slip right out.

Caution: Be sure the children realize these are not real cookies and should not be eaten.

Patricia Bordman, a freelance writer and photographer, has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures on education. She is a master's degree candidate at Oakland University specializing in early childhood.

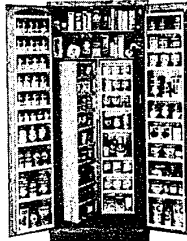
Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Please write her c/o the Observer-Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

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If normal crayons can make troubles light, imagine what a scribble cookie will do for the spirit. (Photo by Pat Bordman)

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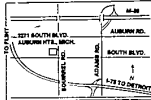
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