

Tips for Helping Young Children Get Started in Digital Scrapbooking



Children of all ages can get involved in digital scrapbooking. Many kids are pretty handy with computers these days! Letting them be part of the process will create lasting memories of doing things together and will help them learn a great hobby of their own. The following are some tips to help young children get started in Digital Scrapbooking.

Before you start digital scrapbooking, have your child help take the photos for the project: Children love “playing Photographer,” taking photos, and can come up with some very interesting images for your digital scrapbooking pages! You might make it a game, and give them an assignment; for example, for one week take 3 pictures each day of the most interesting “find” of the day. Perhaps the most interesting thing that day is a lady bug, an interesting rock, and a baby sister doing something funny... or even the dog sleeping! At the end of the week use these pictures to build a digital scrapbooking album from a child’s perspective of the world.

Let children pick a digital scrapbooking background: Young children love to be part of the planning, so a parent could select three or four different digital scrapbooking papers to use as the foundation of the scrapbooking project, then let the child pick from that set. After selecting the digital paper, let them watch you place it on the transparent background. If they have the computer skills, you could even have them place!

Children love picking the photos for each page: Once the digital paper is in place in your graphics software; then have your children pick the photos to use in the digital scrapbook page. Have them pick a specific number, explaining that only 2 or 3 photos will be included on this particular page, and that they need to pick their favorites. Talk about each of the pictures; ask them why that picture is their favorite and why they wanted to include it. See what comes out of the conversation. Write down what your children say. You might even end up using some of the dialog in the actual digital scrapbook page!



Have your child pick and place some of the digital embellishments and frames: Again, with young children, you may want to limit the selection of frames and embellishments. You can also have pre-selected certain themes.



Have patience and be willing to let them express their creativity: Sometimes as parents we want things to be “just right,” so instead of letting our children explore and learn from experience, we tell them what to use and where thing should go. Letting your child compose the page with minimal coaching will produce a very interesting and memorable scrapbooking page. And as they continue in digital scrapbooking, they will be able to trace their growth in the hobby by the types of pages they create each year. Plus, if they have more opportunities to create their own pages, chances are they will enjoy it and do it more often with you in the future!

Tell everyone! Children love to have you show and tell family and friends about the projects they are involved in, the big tasks they accomplished, and how great of a job that they did. Digital scrapbooking makes it easy to email their creations to grandparents, other family members, and friends. They can take it to show and tell at school too! Having a chance to tell others both near and far about how they created their own work of art reinforces their skills, develops communication, and connects them to love ones.