CHILD'S PLAY II

REQUIREMENTS:

256 color or higher video driver, Windows 3.1 or better, 4 Megs RAM or higher

INSTALLING:

Run SETUP.EXE. Child's Play II will self-install.

INTRODUCTION:

Keep your kids busy for hours with the best paint/art program in the shareware marketplace with Child's Play II. It's so easy that your kids will have this mastered in no time. More importantly, it's **FUN**! This is the one entertainment program that kids never seem to tire of.

Child's Play II mixes art creation tools, screen erasers and special effects to bring out the young artist. Unlike games, what can be done with Child's Play II is endless because it provides a creation environment, not a linear story that has to be replayed. It also allows children to create images that otherwise can't be done as easily with the more traditional tools available to them, so it's more than just a colorbook.

Child's Play II takes full screen. This keeps younger kids from mousing over to other places in Windows and potentially destroying something. Although they can still Alt-Tab into another program, Child's Play is so mouse intensive that it isn't likely that they will do this. (And besides, most kids don't know how to Alt-Tab anyway.) If your child does manage to get out of the program, when you go back to it, the picture will be restored just like it had been.

In addition, Child's Play II is also an educational tool in that the mouse actions used to draw are the same ones used in adult programs. Drawing rectangles, dragging stamps and other actions will help prepare them for similar actions such as "drag and drop" later in life. Other educational aspects include the use of colors and shades, perspective, and the effects of different types of tools. Your child will learn a great deal from Child's Play II, even if it seems like he or she is just playing.

(In case you were wondering, Child's Play II updates the original with easier access to colors, faster operation, better printing, and now includes music.)

OPERATION:

Colors are selected by clicking the color group of choice. The individual shade will depend on where in the color group one selects. Children can really exercise their fine motor skills selecting color. Note that the individual shades show up underneath, so fine motor skill isn't required (but it's kinda fun.)

Just like when we were all young, a mistake or bad thing was often accompanied by someone saying "Ummmmmmmmm" with their hand over their mouth. Above the color groups is a little guy with a hand over his mouth (Mr. Undo) who will undo the last thing that was done when he's clicked.

The top of the screen over the drawing area is used for tools and tool groups on Tabs. Each tab selected will bring up a new tool group. From left to right these are:

DrawTool Tab:

Pencil -- allows freeform drawing, small line size.
Typing -- allows you to type messages like "I LOVE MY MOMMY" on the screen using any font. (And if you can keep 'em writing things like that, you're doing well.)
Crayon -- allows freeform drawing, complete with crayon smears.
Eraser -- small eraser for little boo-boos.
Crazy Pen -- the electronic version of those old 3 color pens.
Instant Grass -- the easy way to get grass drawn on outdoor pictures.
Spirograph -- for those crazy moods when you just want to doodle.
Vacuum Eraser -- for bigger boo-boos.
Starburst -- create a rising sun the easy way.
Ruler -- draws a nice and straight thin line.

Paint Tool Tab:

Bucket -- fill in an area with color or a colored pattern.
Spray Paint -- perfect for the aspiring tag artist.

Roller -- just like painting the house, including bits of color reflection.
Ribbon Cable -- for those crazy, colorful moods.
Paintbrush -- just like painting with watercolors, since the colors will vary.
Splat -- just flop some paint.
Rugs -- more color in a small circle than you thought possible.
Fish -- Freddie, known to his pals as the bubblemeister, creates some incredible 3d bubbles.
Reflection 1 -- perfect for drawing a little dream house that is reflected in a lake...
Reflection 2 -- an easier way to draw faces where the ears are in the same spot.

Shapes Tab:

Just click the mouse button and hold it while dragging. Remember to set the pattern inside using the paint bucket on the left side of the screen (it will show up when you click the shape you want.)

Screen Erasers:

Wipe -- erases screen to white. Boring, but effective.
Bomb -- for those destructive moods. Blasted picture, anyhow.
Blackboard -- for those kids who can't get enough school (or more importantly, for those who don't go yet.)
Brick Wall -- train to be a street artist. Perfect for spray paint...
Night Sky -- perfect for those space scenes.
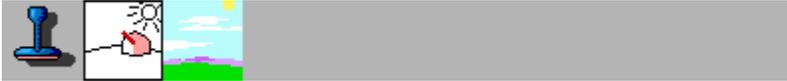Shrink -- suck the screen into a black hole.

Special Effects:

Move -- select an area and move it.
Dupe -- select an area and copy it somewhere else.
Mixer -- scramble it all up
Tunnel -- shrink the picture in on itself.

Wave -- makes the picture look like reality did back in the 60's.
Magnify -- blow an area of the picture up to the whole screen
Reduce -- make the picture really really small.
Invert -- make a photo-negative of your picture. Goofy but fun.
Confetti -- feel like partying?

Pictures:

Rubber Stamps -- click here to get 180 stamps. Stamps will smear if the mouse button is being pressed and the mouse is moving. This is intentional; kids like the effect. Single stamps can be deposited once per mouse click.
Colorbook Page -- color a pre-drawn picture. Perfect to use with the paint bucket.
Scenery -- use a background scene to help get started.

Computer Operations:

Picture To Disk -- yes, that's how to save your picture. You don't need to enter any names; one is made up for you.
Disk to Picture -- display a saved picture from hard drive storage. This is done via a "thumbnail" display of saved pictures.
Print -- print the picture. If the printer was left in landscape mode (i.e. sideways) the picture will print sideways and take the entire page. If the printer is left in portrait mode (normal) the picture will take up the upper half of the page. Your refrigerator will never look the same.
Trash -- this is how you can delete your sister's work. Ooooops. What we mean is that this is the way to get rid of old pictures, etc.
Copyright -- the world's cutest way to bring up an ABOUT box.
Music -- turn sound and music off and on. (The parent button.)

Notes: Just in case you want to make computer wallpaper for your family or friends, Child's Play II pictures are *.BMP files in the USER folder and begin with the letters CP2.

HOW TO ORDER:

Child 's Play II is a shareware program. That means you get to try it out before

you decide to keep it. (Try THAT in your local software store.) That's why we do the "test drive" business on saved and printed pictures -- we want to let you have some fun and make sure the thing works on your setup, but we also want you to know that you need to purchase it if you want to keep it. To sweeten the deal, we have a heck of an offer for you in the PRO version...

In the US, if ordering by credit card, call 1-800-242-4775 and order product # 11588. If ordering Child's Play II, it is $19.95. Child's Play Pro is $24.95. You can also order electronically to 71355.470@compuserve.com, or visit the PsL website at http://www.pslweb.com. Outside of the US, you can call +1-713-524-6394, or fax +1-713-524-6398.

If ordering by mail, cut and paste the following and send to:

ASL
P.O. Box 581
Ruidoso, NM 88345

NAME:

_____
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ADDRESS:

_____

_____
_____

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_____

Enclosed is:

    [ ] $19.95   -----   Child's Play II
    [ ] $24.95   -----   Child's Play PRO
    [ ] $ 4.00   -----   Shipping (outside North America)

$_____   TOTAL

Make checks payable to "Alston Software Labs".

WHAT YOU GET:

Ordering Child's Play ($19.95) will get you the registered version of this program
which has more sound effects, no registration reminders, and no "Test Drive"
marks on saved or printed pictures. (Kinda hard to make cute wallpaper and such
with that written all over it...)

Ordering Child's Play Pro ($24.95) gets you a much more advanced program:

1) No Rubber Stamps -- these are replaced with larger pictures that can be
   moved anywhere and colored in -- things like castles, houses, etc.
2) About 2 dozen more drawing tools, including quill pens, charcoal pencils,
   tri-color spray paint, freehand fills, string art, propellers, cloth, and
   much more. There's even animated tools that draw themselves!
3) More screen erasers.
4) Advanced special effects, such as pixellizing. (That's the effect that
   keeps you from seeing someone's face on 'real life' cop shows on TV.)
5) More sound effects! More Music!
6) Cool text effects, including extrusion, rotation, shadows, and more.
7) 3d Tools! Create more lifelike images with a 3d appearance.
8) A unique moving icon menu. That's right, the tools MOVE and show you
   how they work!
9) Better documentation. We're not trying to squeeze everything to make an
   attractive download size. Documentation includes a "how to" guide that shows
   cool techniques of tool use.
10) There's much, much more -- but you get the idea.

UNINSTALLING: (Oh my, we hope you don't do this! We want you to LOVE the
                  program. Your kids can't live without it, can they?)

Child's Play II makes no modifications to ANY windows or DOS files, and it does
not put any files in any directory other than the one it was installed in. To
uninstall, simply delete the directory you installed it in.

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DISK and CD VENDOR INFORMATION:

There is one requirement: <u>you must include "ASL" in any description.</u>