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Expressive arts and design

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EYFS Statutory Educational Programme: The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.





3 and 4-year-olds will be learning to:

Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.

Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.

Join different materials and explore different textures.

Examples of how to support this:

Offer opportunities to explore scale.

Suggestions:

- long strips of wallpaper
- child size boxes
- different surfaces to work on e.g., paving, floor, tabletop or easel

Listen and understand what children want to create before offering suggestions.

Invite artists, musicians and craftspeople into the setting, to widen the range of ideas which children can draw on.

Suggestions: glue and masking tape for sticking pieces of scrap materials onto old cardboard boxes, hammers and nails, glue guns, paperclips and fasteners.



3 and 4-year-olds will be learning to:

Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.

Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.

Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.

Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear, etc.

Explore colour and colour mixing.

Show different emotions in their drawings – happiness, sadness, fear, etc.

Listen with increased attention to sounds.

Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.

Examples of how to support this:

Help children to develop their drawing and modelmaking. Encourage them to develop their own creative ideas. Spend sustained time alongside them. Show interest in the meanings children give to their drawings and models. Talk together about these meanings.

Encourage children to draw from their imagination and observation.

Help children to add details to their drawings by selecting interesting objects to draw, and by pointing out key features to children and discussing them.

Talk to children about the differences between colours. Help them to explore and refine their colour mixing – for example: “How does blue become green?”

Introduce children to the work of artists from across times and cultures. Help them to notice where features of artists’ work overlap with the children’s, for example in details, colour, movement or line.

Help children to develop their listening skills through a range of active listening activities. Notice ‘how’ children listen well, for example: listening whilst painting or drawing, or whilst moving.

Play, share and perform a wide variety of music and songs from different cultures and historical periods.

Play sound-matching games.



Children in reception will be learning to:

Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.

Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.

Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.

Examples of how to support this:

Teach children to develop their colour-mixing techniques to enable them to match the colours they see and want to represent, with step-by-step guidance when appropriate.

Provide opportunities to work together to develop and realise creative ideas.

Provide children with a range of materials for children to construct with. Encourage them to think about and discuss what they want to make. Discuss problems and how they might be solved as they arise. Reflect with children on how they have achieved their aims.

Teach children different techniques for joining materials, such as how to use adhesive tape and different sorts of glue.

Provide a range of materials and tools and teach children to use them with care and precision. Promote independence, taking care not to introduce too many new things at once.

Encourage children to notice features in the natural world. Help them to define colours, shapes, texture and smells in their own words. Discuss children's responses to what they see.

Visit galleries and museums to generate inspiration and conversation about art and artists.