

Expressive arts and design

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.





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.



Children in reception will be learning to:

Examples of how to support this:

Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses.

Give children an insight into new musical worlds. Introduce them to different kinds of music from across the globe, including traditional and folk music from Britain.

Invite musicians in to play music to children and talk about it.

Encourage children to listen attentively to music. Discuss changes and patterns as a piece of music develops.

Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.

Offer opportunities for children to go to a live performance, such as a pantomime, play, music or dance performance.

Provide related costumes and props for children to incorporate into their pretend play.

Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.

Play pitch-matching games, humming or singing short phrases for children to copy.

Use songs with and without words – children may pitch match more easily with sounds like 'ba'.

Sing call-and-response songs, so that children can echo phrases of songs you sing.

Introduce new songs gradually and repeat them regularly.

Sing slowly, so that children can listen to the words and the melody of the song.



Children in reception will be learning to:

Develop storylines in their pretend play.

Examples of how to support this:

Provide a wide range of props for play which encourage imagination. Suggestions: different lengths and styles of fabric can become capes, the roof of a small den, a picnic rug or an invisibility cloak.

Support children in deciding which role they might want to play and learning how to negotiate, be patient and solve conflicts.

Help children who find it difficult to join in pretend play. Stay next to them and comment on the play. Model joining in. Discuss how they might get involved.