

Expressive Arts and Design – Art and DT (Development Matters 2021)

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 – 4 Years Old

<p>Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.</p> <p>Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.</p> <p>Join different materials and explore different textures.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.</p> <p>Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.</p> <p>Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.</p> <p>Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear, etc.</p> <p>Explore colour and colour mixing.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>(Physical Development) Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.</p> <p>Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. Show a preference for a dominant hand.</p>	<p>You can begin by showing children how to use onehanded tools (scissors and hammers, for example) and then guide them with hand-over-hand help. Gradually reduce the help you are giving and allow the child to use the tool independently. The tripod grip is a comfortable way to hold a pencil or pen. It gives the child good control. The pen is pinched between the ball of the thumb and the forefinger, supported by the middle finger with the other fingers tucked into the hand. You can help children to develop this grip with specially designed pens and pencils, or grippers. Encourage children to pick up small objects like individual gravel stones or tiny bits of chalk to draw with.</p>

Children in Reception

<p>Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.</p>	<p>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</p>
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<p>Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.</p> <p>Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>(Physical Development) Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.</p>	<p>Before teaching children the correct pencil grip and posture for writing, or how to use a knife and fork and cut with scissors, check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that children have developed their upper arm and shoulder strength sufficiently: they do not need to move their shoulders as they move their hands and fingers • that they can move and rotate their lower arms and wrists independently <p>Help children to develop the core strength and stability they need to support their small motor skills. Encourage and model tummy-crawling, crawling on all fours, climbing, pulling themselves up on a rope and hanging on monkey bars. Offer children activities to develop and further refine their small motor skills. Suggestions: threading and sewing, woodwork, pouring, stirring, dancing with scarves, using spray bottles, dressing and undressing dolls, planting and caring for plants, playing with small world toys, and making models with junk materials, construction kits and malleable materials like clay. Regularly review the equipment for children to develop their small motor skills. Is it appropriate for the different levels of skill and confidence of children in the class? Is it challenging for the most dexterous children? Continuously check how children are holding pencils for writing, scissors and knives and forks. Offer regular, gentle encouragement and feedback. With regular practice, the physical skills children need to eat with a knife and fork and develop an efficient handwriting style will become increasingly automatic.</p>

ELG: Creating with Materials

Children at the expected level of development will: - Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function; - Share their creations, explaining the process they have used; - Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

ELG: Being Imaginative and Expressive

Children at the expected level of development will: - Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher; - Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs; Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.

ELG: Fine Motor Skills

Children at the expected level of development will: - Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases; - Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery; - Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.