



## Expressive art and design – information for parents

Dear parents,

The educational programme in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework states:

*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.*

In our early years setting, we plan creative experiences through the week to include, for example:

- Drawing pictures – paper, pencils, crayons, stencils etc are always available.
- Painting in the garden – sometimes we use spray bottles and make big pictures on the patio.
- Making artwork with nature on our outings to the park – we are inspired by transient artists.
- Singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.
- Using big chalks on the patio or wall.
- Making playdough and using different types of cutters.
- Weaving on the fence with short lengths of coloured ribbons.
- We have a messy tray for silly soap, sand, water etc – we will share our recipes on request.
- Reading books and linking stories to role play.
- Daily fiddly fingers challenges such as using shapes and sticking collages with glue.
- Sensory play, including our treasure baskets.
- Using big and small blocks, Lego, Duplo etc to make creations.
- Interpretive dance linked to, for example, music on our tablet or favourite books.
- Making cards or artwork for special occasions.

Your child won't bring artwork home every day – mostly, it's about them learning and practicing new skills rather than making 'something' and most of their artwork is put up on the display board. We will send you photos of the process your child is currently learning or practicing, so you can have fun together at home.

If you have any questions about how we support your child's expressive art and design / creativity or you have concerns about your child's progress, please ask. Thank you.