

Expressive Arts and Design in the Early Years Foundation Stage - Progression of Skills (informed by the Access Art Curriculum)

Area	Beginning	Developing	Year 1 Ready
Exploring and experimenting	Explores a range of art materials and enjoys sensory experiences	Experiments with different materials and notices changes caused by different actions	Confidently explores materials and techniques, making choices about how they might use them
Creative confidence	Joins in with adult-led creative activities	Begins to develop ideas independently and talks about what they are making	Initiates creative ideas and understands that artwork can be changes, developed and explored in different ways
Drawing and mark-making	Makes marks using a range of drawing tools	Experiments with lines, shapes, dots, patterns and different pressures	Uses drawing to represent ideas, observations, experiences and imagination
Line	Makes simple marks and lines	Experiments straight, curved, wavy, zigzag, thick and thin lines	Uses different types of line deliberately to communicate ideas or create effects
Shape	Recognises and makes simple shapes	Uses circles, squares, triangles and other shapes within artwork	Combines shapes to represent objects, people, patterns and imaginative ideas
Pattern	Notices patterns in the environment and artwork	Creates simple repeated patterns using drawing, printing or collage	Creates and adapts simple patterns, recognising repetition and variation
Sketchbooks	Explores a sketchbook as a place for making marks	Uses a sketchbook to experiment, collect ideas and record observations	Understands that a sketchbook is a place to explore ideas, practise skills and develop artwork
Painting	Explores paint, using brushes, fingers and other tools	Experiments with colour, brushstrokes, marks and different tools	Selects appropriate tools and uses paint to represent ideas, explore colour and create different effects

Colour	Names some colours and enjoys mixing colours	Explores what happens when colours are mixed	Can mix and experiment with colours and talk about changes they have made
Texture	Explores materials through touch and sight	Combines materials with different textures	Uses texture deliberately to create interest or communicate an idea
Collage	Explores tearing, cutting, sticking and arranging materials	Combines different papers and materials to make pictures and patterns	Selects, arranges and combines materials to create an intended effect
Printing	Explores making marks using objects, hands and simple printing tools	Repeats prints and experiments with shape colour and pattern	Understands that different objects and tools can create different printed marks and patterns
Three-Dimensional Work	Builds and manipulates clay, dough, boxes and construction materials	Joins, shapes and changes materials to make simple forms	Uses modelling and construction materials with increasing control to create a planned or imaginative form
Materials	Explores a wide range of materials	Talks about some similarities and differences between materials	Selects materials because of their properties, appearance or suitability for an idea
Tools	Begins to use tools safely with support	Uses brushes, scissors, glue, pencils and other tools with increasing control	Uses a range of art tools safely and with increasing independence
Artists and artwork	Looks at and talks about artwork	Notices colours, shapes, materials and subject matter in artwork	Responds to artwork using simple art vocabulary and can describe things they notice or like
Responding to art	Expresses likes and dislikes	Talks about what artwork reminds them of	Begins to explain choices, preferences and observations about their own and others' artwork
Observation	Looks closely at familiar objects and images	Draws or paints things they have observed	Uses observation to inform drawings, painting and other artwork

Imagination	Uses art to represent experiences and ideas	Develops imaginative pictures and models	Combines imagination, observation and experience to create individual responses
Reflection	Talks about what they have made	Describes some of the materials and processes used	Talks about what they have made, what they changed and what they might try next
Independence	Needs adult support to select and use resources	Makes some independent choices	Selects materials and tools with increasing independence and takes responsibility for their creative process
Collaboration	Creates alongside other children	Shares materials and ideas with others	Contributes ideas, materials and skills