



Help your child to learn at home.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning includes:

- music, singing and dancing
- art - including painting and drawing, collage and printing
- imaginative play - including: 'role play' in which children pretend to be different characters and 'small-world play', where children use miniature toys, such as cars, animals and people to take on roles and create their own stories
- modelling - with malleable materials, such as clay or mud; 'junk materials', such as cardboard; and wood and metal



There are two strands Expressive Arts and Design

- creating with materials
- being imaginative and expressive

Here are a few ideas of things you could try at home or whilst you're out and about, to support your child's learning.

Creating with materials

- Encourage your child to use crayons, paints or chinks to create pictures and patterns. It is important to value the finished pictures as your child's work of art. **The process is just as valuable as the finished product**

- Explore using paint in different ways. Try making prints using cut up potatoes and carrots or you could use cotton reels, large buttons or pebbles and shells.



- Try making collage pictures with scraps of paper, fabric, wool, sequins, buttons, and natural materials such as leaves and grasses.



- Use playdough or clay as a base to make 3D models with twigs, shells, stones or nuts and bolts.

Being Imaginative and Expressive

- Young children love role-play and dressing up. However, they don't need expensive readymade dressing up costumes; hats, scarves, bags, simple cloaks, and masks provide hours of fun.
- Sing songs with your child indoors and out of doors. You will find a great range of nursery rhymes on the BBC School Radio website

- Why not make instruments to accompany your singing – make a drum from a pan and wooden spoon, shakers from empty plastic containers filled with dried peas or beans, cymbals from pan lids and a microphone from rolled up paper or the tube from inside a kitchen roll.



- Make streamers from strips of plastic or paper, tie them to a stick or clothes peg and watch what happens when running or dancing with them out of doors.
- Building a den is a great way of children learning how to design and build on a large scale outdoors or indoors. Large cardboard boxes are great for this



- Try role-playing games together such as shopping. Set items out on the sofa, give your child a bag and some pretend money. Then switch roles and let them be the shopkeeper.
- Start a simple game with your child by making up a story together about their favourite toy. For example, 'One day, teddy decided to go on holiday to the beach'. Then encourage your child to take the lead.

The Early Years Curriculum

Not all children develop at the same rate but by the end of nursery most children will...

- Explore and learn how sounds and movements can be changed
- Continue to explore moving in a range of ways, e.g. mirroring, creating own movement patterns
- Enjoy joining in with moving, dancing and ring games
- Sings familiar songs, e.g. pop songs, songs from TV programmes, rhymes, songs from home
- Develop an understanding of how to create and use sounds intentionally
- Continue to explore colour and how colours can be changed
- Develop an understanding of using lines to enclose a space, and begin to use drawing to represent actions and objects based on imagination, observation and experience
- Use various construction materials, e.g. joining pieces, stacking vertically and horizontally, balancing, making enclosures and creating spaces
- Use tools for a purpose
- Use movement and sounds to express experiences, expertise, ideas and feelings
- Sing to self and make up simple songs
- Create sounds, movements, drawings to accompany stories
- Notice what other children and adults do, mirroring what is observed, adding variations and then doing it spontaneously
- Engage in imaginative play, based on their own ideas or first-hand or peer experiences.
- Use available resources to create props or create imaginary ones to support play
- Play alongside other children who are engaged in the same theme.

Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>