



Early Years Foundation Stage  
Expressive Arts and Design:  
Creating with Materials

Early Learning Goal

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.

Start of Pre-school

- \*Start to make marks intentionally.
- \*Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their body as well as brushes and other tools.
- \*Explores different materials, using all their senses to investigate them. Manipulate and play with different materials.
- \*Use their imagination as they consider what they can do with different materials.
- \*Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks that they make.
- \*Start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object represents another.
- \*Make models which express their ideas.

End of Pre-School

- \*Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
- \*Join different materials and explore different textures.
- \*Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
- \*Draw with increasing detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
- \*Show different emotions in their drawings and painting.
- \*Explore colour and colour mixing.
- \*Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.
- \*Make imaginative small worlds with blocks and construction kits, using them to tell stories.

End of Reception

- \*Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
- \*Explores colour and how colours can be changed.
- \*Develops understanding of using lines to enclose space, and begins to use drawing to represent actions and objects based on imagination, observation and experience.
- \*Uses various construction materials, joining pieces, staking vertically and horizontally, balancing, making enclosures and creating spaces.
- \*Uses tools for a purpose.
- \*Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
- \*Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.
- \*Uses available resources to create props to support play.