



Art and Design in the Early Years



The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (September 2021) separates learning and development into seven areas (three prime areas and four specific areas). The most relevant statements for art and design are taken from: *Physical Development* (prime area of learning) and *Expressive Arts and Design* (specific area of learning) and the targets that relate to the art and design curriculum are as follows:

Physical development

1. Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.
2. Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.
3. Develop overall body-strength, balance, coordination and agility.
4. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery (ELG- Fine Motor Skills).
5. Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases (ELG- Fine Motor Skills)
6. Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing (ELG- Fine Motor Skills).

Expressive Art and Design

1. Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
2. Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.
3. Join different materials and explore different textures.
4. Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
5. Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
6. use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.
7. Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear, etc.
8. Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
9. Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
10. Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills
11. Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function (ELG - Creating with Materials).
12. Share their creations, explaining the process they have used (ELG - Creating with Materials).

Art and Design in the Early Years at Danson Primary School

At Danson Primary School, we are big advocates of encouraging and developing art skills in the Early Years through a mixture of adult led sessions and child-initiated play. Our rich indoor and outdoor environments provide our children with a wide variety of opportunities for art skills to be developed, such as junk modelling, malleable materials and a variety of mediums for creating pictures. Children are taught how to safely (and independently) use a variety of skills throughout the year and these skills are built upon in Year 1. Please see the table below for the breakdown of how the targets from the *Expressive Art and Design* area feed into different Art and Design strands.