



## Design and Technology 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 DT 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 DT curriculum are as follows:

### **Physical development**

1. Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.
2. Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.
3. Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.
4. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery (ELG - Fine Motor Skills ).

### **Expressive Art and Design**

1. Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
2. Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
3. Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills
4. Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function (ELG - Creating with Materials ).
5. Share their creations, explaining the process they have used (ELG - Creating with Materials ).

### **Design and technology in the Early Years at Danson Primary School**

At Danson Primary School we are big advocates of encouraging and developing DT 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 open ended DT projects, such as junk modelling, small-scale indoor construction, large-scale outdoor construction, malleable materials, water play and play. 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.