



# 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 chalks 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.

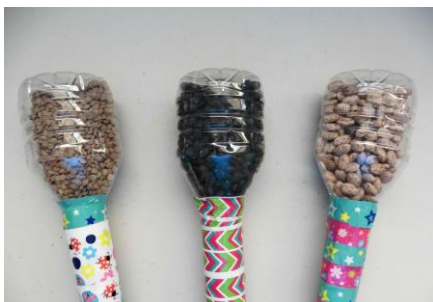


- Use playdough or clay as a base to make 3D models with twigs, shells, stones or nuts and bolts.

### 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>