



Expressive Arts and Design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, movement, dance, role play, and design and technology (**Regulatory requirements 2017 Section 1 - The learning and development requirements 1.5**)

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.

Aspects of Expressive Arts and Design

- **Creating with materials** - ELG16 Children safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. They share their creations, explaining the process they have used and make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.
- **Being imaginative and Expressive** – ELG17 Children invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher. They sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs. They perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music.

This area of learning includes art, music, dance, drama and imaginative play opportunities for children to try new experiences and express themselves in a variety of ways. Creativity is an important part of successful learning; it enables children to make connections between experiences, helps them to solve problems and be inventive.

We do this in various ways including:

- Providing a stimulating environment
- Valuing children's creativity and original ideas
- Encouraging children to express themselves through art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play
- Encouraging imaginative play in a range of contexts e.g. role play, small world play, construction, malleable materials, sand and water play, puppets, storytelling
- Providing a balance of adult initiated and child-initiated activities
- Providing multi-sensory experiences
- Providing opportunities for children to explore, colour, shape, texture and space
- Providing opportunities for children to enjoy and respond to music
- Providing a wide range of good quality materials with which children can explore and experiment
- Allowing sufficient time for children to explore and experiment, develop and refine ideas
- Helping children develop confidence in their own ideas and abilities
- Helping children become more independent in making choices, selecting resources and techniques, responding to stimuli.