

Art and Design in the Early Years at Fairfield's

Early Years is where the creativity starts at Fairfield's! The roots of our Art and Design curriculum can be found in our Foundation Stage through 'Expressive Arts and Design' provision.

A mix of adult led and child-initiated activities encourage our children to design and create imaginatively, both independently and collaboratively, share and talk about their ideas, choose resources and develop key vocabulary and knowledge related to methods and techniques in preparation for Key Stage One Art and Design. We also incorporate some activities from Access Art to enhance our exploration in this area.

Children develop their fine and gross motor skills so that they are able to use a range of tools including scissors, pencils and paintbrushes competently, safely and confidently. Our Early Years curriculum values mark making, and provides children with opportunities to practise holding and using a pencil.

We believe that 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. In order to support this, we focus on well-known artists like Van Gogh, Andy Warhol, Kandinsky and link their work to our topics in which we can observe, talk about and re-create our own pieces of art.

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. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.

Both Nursery and Reception classes have their own 'creative areas' with a selection of readily available resources to allow them to design and create independently, choosing their own resources to carry out the plan. It enables them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. We also encourage lots of loose parts creative play. The children in Foundation Stage take pride in displaying their work in our class art galleries and display boards around the school.

We encourage the children to develop their own ideas and decide which materials to use to express them. Modelling using recycled materials, is a favourite in our Early Years and children enjoy joining, fixing and talking about their creations and masterpieces.

Children's drawings are valued in our Early Years. Our curriculum teaches them to enjoy representing their own ideas and feelings with increasing complexity and detail. We treasure their work and save early drawings in their Learning Journals for families to keep.

We encourage our children to create imaginatively, collaboratively, share ideas through discussion, choose resources and develop skills in preparation for Key Stage One Art and Design.