



“Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination”

## Ideas to support your child with expressive arts and design

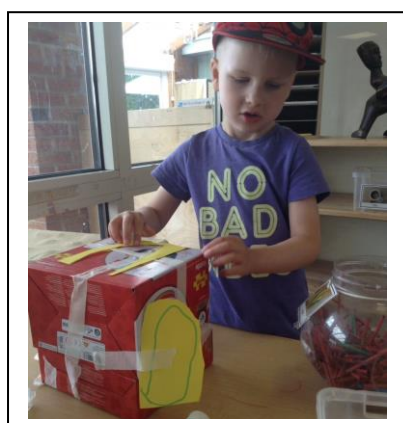
As a parent of a child who attends Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School, from our entrance corridor to the classrooms, you will be immersed in displays and photographs demonstrating the high value we place on children’s creative development. We believe that ‘creative’ learning brings huge benefits to a child’s overall development. Within the Early Years Foundation Stage it is a ‘specific’ area of learning which develops children’s artistic and cultural awareness and supports their imagination and creativity.

Our inviting learning environment provides frequent opportunities for children to be inspired and engage with all things creative. These high quality ‘invitations to play’ are crucial to developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. We also ensure that children have opportunities to practice and repeat activities, as well as explore their artistic interests in greater depth, enabling them to interpret and appreciate what they hear, respond to and observe.

Through expressive arts and design your child has opportunities to:

- Sing, dance and create music
- Paint, draw, explore collage and printing materials
- Enjoy stories and rhymes
- Be imaginative, including ‘role play’ where they pretend to be different characters from ‘mum’ or ‘dad’ to doctors, superheroes and animals; ‘small world play’ using miniature toys like cars, animals and people also provide opportunities for creating roles and making up stories
- Modelling – with materials like clay, mud, playdough, reclaimed objects, wood, blocks ( big and small),

If you have any questions about your child’s learning and development please speak to your key worker who will be happy to help.



### Did you know??

Simple everyday activities like walking in the rain or listening to music will give your child ideas for things to make. They will ‘say’ things using materials

### At home you could

- Save boxes of different sizes, wallpaper, sweet wrappers, lolly sticks and bottle tops – this will give your child opportunities to create things on a big scale as well as on a small scale
- Show your child that you can make marks on different surfaces – flags, bricks, paper, printing into dough or using sticks to draw in mud
- Rather than buy different small character toys you could cut out pictures from magazines or print off their favourite characters and stick them on to blocks. These could then be used to make up simple stories
- When your child has drawn or painted a picture talk with them about what the different marks represent – things like which mark is mummy, which is the house
- Encourage your child to think about which colours they may use - things like the colour of the sea or to show something is cold may be blue, what colours does your child think are happy colours etc
- Use things from around the house to make sounds and music. Things like pans, water bottles filled with pasta, rubber bands around a box. Can they make loud and quiet sounds, fast and slow sounds

### At home you could

- Help your child to collect natural things like stones, cones, leaves, twigs and flowers to make pictures
- Help your child to learn some songs and rhymes – twinkle, twinkle, baa baa black sheep, miss polly had a dolly, the wheels on the bus. There are lots and we will share the songs and rhymes we are learning in nursery with you on Tapestry each half term
- Play lots of different types of music to your child and talk with them about how each piece makes them feel
- Find music for your child to listen to music that is fast and music that is slow and encourage them to move in these ways
- Talk with your child about the differences between colours and support them to explore mixing colours by asking questions like ‘How could we make blue green?’
- Help your child to think about the position of our features when drawing faces and when they are ready to add more detail. Things like eyes are above our nose and mouth, details like eyebrows. Giving your child a mirror and talking about the features on their face can help
- Help your child to explore joining different materials using things like glue, cellotape, paper clips and string
- Help your child to use different things to represent other things in their imaginative play. This could be a block being a car or a pine cone being a horse
- Talk with your child about the things you do at home – making food, washing the clothes, writing a shopping list, talking to a friend or family member on the phone. We often see children ‘acting out’ the things they see at home in nursery

### Useful Websites



**YolanDa's Live Jam** – An introduction to a range of different instruments and musical styles

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio/yolandas-live-jam-playlist?collection=radio-top-picks>

Nursery Rhymes – a range of rhymes to sing and dance to

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio/nursery-rhymes-playlist?collection=radio-top-picks>



**Melody** – When Melody listens to classical music her imagination takes her on exciting adventures

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/melody>

**Mister Maker** – Get creative with Mister Maker and his friends

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/mister-maker>



Tate Kids – go on an art adventure with ideas for creating and opportunities to explore artwork online

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore>

Each half term we post on Tapestry the songs and rhymes we are learning in nursery with links so your child can listen to them on-line



Art work created by children from Sandy Lane is often displayed at Orford Jubilee Hub, just off Winwick Road. Have a look out for it next time you visit

**IMPORTANT** – Please remember to check all website links to ensure the content is appropriate before sharing with your child