

Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School



“Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination”

Ideas to support your child with expressive arts and design

Expressive arts and design is one of the seven areas of learning included within the early years foundation stage and has an important role in supporting children in their development of imagination, creativity and their ability to use different materials and media to explore and understand their feelings and their environment. 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. From free play to structured activities our learning environment offers frequent opportunities for children to engage in creative learning. As part of the children’s free play time the classroom is filled with invitations to play, sometimes there is a small world farm set up and ready to explore, or a jungle but resources are plenty so children are free to change and adapt the resources to make play exciting for them. Paint pots and brushes are plentiful and play dough is always waiting to be squished and squashed into whatever the imagination can conjure up. The role play area is always a firm favourite as children’s imaginations come alive as they can become whatever they want, a mummy, daddy, doctor, vet or even a dragon! When it’s time to come together as a group our structured activities range from dancing, making music to getting creative with lots of resources to explore. This range in activities ensures that children are provided with opportunities to develop their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.



Did you know?

Everyday activities are an opportunity for a creative experience. Going for a walk is a musical experience if we listen for bird songs and the whispering wind. We can make art from nature and dance in the rain!

At home you could

- Get creative with everyday objects, save up milk bottles, bottle tops, lolly sticks, wrappers and tinfoil, so that your child can make big and small scale junk modelling!
- Go on a nature treasure hunt, look for pinecones, leaves, conkers, acorns, sticks and stones. Wonderful free natural resources than can be used to make something artistic and creative.
- Mark making can happen anywhere—use chalk outside on flags, the path or on your house bricks. Use a stick in some mud to make squelchy muddy marks, or use crayons and some paper.
- Make your own musical instruments, use a pan and a wooden spoon as a drum, fill an empty bottle with rice to make a rainmaker or run a stick across some railings and listen to the different noises you can hear! Encourage your child to make BIG LOUD sounds and small quiet sounds.
- Talk about colours what colour is the sky? Can you find a pencil that is the same colour as the grass? Talk about how different colours can make you feel different.
- 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

Useful websites

The hidden Gem on Youtube— Outdoor Activities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6phVXCajzo>



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>



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

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

The National Trust—Summer things to do at home

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/summer-family-activities-to-do-at-home>



As a nursery we want to make sure we do our best to support both you and your child to make progress and have fun. We post weekly activities to tapestry for you to see the kinds of things we do. This also helps us to build a strong link between home and nursery. We love to see all of the wonderful things you get up to at home so please share your activities with us through tapestry.



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