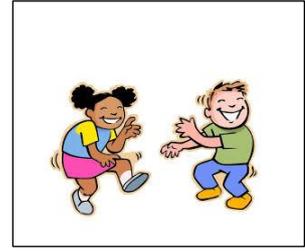




Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring And Using Media And Materials

Being Imaginative



Exploring and using media and materials - children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them. They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Being imaginative - children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through Best practice and activity ideas.



Children's learning and development in this area is enhanced as they sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with different ways of doing these activities. As children develop, they use and explore a variety of materials, experimenting with colour, design, texture, shape, and form.

For children in nurseries, kindergarten and pre-schools. as well as the many activities which are provided indoors to encourage the children to explore and use a wide variety of media and materials, the outdoor area is set up to encourage children to experiment with the visual and performing arts and design technology. Practitioners are aware of the importance of young children having opportunities to use gross motor skills as a precursor to developing the fine motor skills which are needed for mark making and writing. Children enjoy 'painting' with water, creating patterns and transient images. There are a range of resources for the children to use when they are designing with water, including sprays, rollers, and large brushes. As the children's manual dexterity develop, they become interested in using fabrics, papers, wool, foil, ribbons and cellophane to create woven designs. The children also enjoy weaving on the picket fence at the edge of the garden.



At school, the children also enjoy the experience of painting and mark making and transient art on a large scale out of doors. Brushes of many thicknesses and sizes are provided for the children who are encouraged to mix their own colours of paint. The children often choose to work collaboratively on group projects, exploring colour, texture, movement and design as they work. Making dens outside provides the children with excellent opportunities to explore working with resistant materials such as wood, thick card and ridged plastic. They learn how to decide whether or not different materials are fit for their purpose. Children enjoy the benefits of exploring music outside by using large scale musical instruments which are available to be played by the children at all times. The outdoor area provides the perfect opportunity for the children to explore sound, rhythm, and movement. Playing music out of doors, along with streamers and ribbons, encourages both boys and girls to move rhythmically and to match their movements to music. Imaginative play is facilitated in the role play areas including the home corner, the mud kitchen, the pop up shop, café and scrap shack as well as the small world areas and the story telling chair.

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| the stage | the music wall | the mud kitchen |
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| the role play | the pop up shop | the cafe |
|  |  |  |
| the scrap shack | the small world shelves inside | the small world area outside |
|  |  |  |
| the creative area | the story telling chair | transient art |