

What does Art and Design look like in Early Years?

At Cobbs Brow Primary School our EYFS department follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (March 2021) and use the Birth to Five Matters Non-statutory guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage developed by the Early Years Coalition. This guidance supports practitioners to implement the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in a pedagogically sound, principled and evidence-based way. Practitioners can then use their professional judgement based on their knowledge of the children in their setting and their wider context including family, community and the setting itself to construct an appropriate curriculum.

Basic art and design skills are taught via 'Expressive Arts and Design' in EYFS, particularly using the 'Creating with Materials' developmental matters. In Nursery children are encouraged to explore colours and how colours can be changed. They begin to understand that they can use lines to enclose a space, and then begin to use these shapes to represent objects. Children begin to describe the texture of things and they realise that tools can be used for a purpose. Throughout Reception, children explore what happens when they mix colours and textures, they understand that different media can be combined to create new effects and they manipulate a variety of tools and materials to achieve these effects. They will be encouraged to express their feelings and understandings using a range of art forms and develop their own ideas through experimentation with a range of diverse materials.

At the end of Reception children are assessed against 'Creating with Materials' Early Learning Goal and children at the expected level of development will be able to:

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function;
- Share their creations, explaining the process they have used;
- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

Children are also assessed against the 'Fine Motor Control' Early Learning Goals and children at the expected level of development will be able to:

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases;
- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery;
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing