

Early Years Outcomes for Art:

Nursery: 3 and 4 Year Olds:

Expressive Arts and Design

Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make. Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.

Join different materials and explore different textures.

Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.

Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.

Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.

Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc.

Explore colour and colour mixing.

Physical Development:

Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel.

Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors. • Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.

Show a preference for a dominant hand.

Reception: Children in Reception:

Physical Development:

Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.

Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.

Expressive Arts and Design:

Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. • Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. • Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills.

Early Learning Goals:

Physical Development: Fine Motor Skills

Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.

Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing

Expressive Arts and Design: Creating with Materials

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.

Nursery Cycle 1 Expressive Arts and Design Art 2025 -2026		
Autumn	Spring	Summer
Painting – variety of types of paper / paints including paintings of their family members Colour Mixing Autumnal art – leaf printing and collage Christmas Cards/crafts	Fantasy paintings Developing using a variety of mark making implements/materials to explore and experience focus on art by Van Gogh (starry sky linked to wonderful world) Woodland art using natural materials.- stick man for winter Easter cards / crafts	Observational drawings/paintings of school grounds and flowers. Salt dough sunflowers Jungle inspired group work – Henri Rousseau

Reception Cycle 1 Expressive Arts and Design Art 2025 -2026		
Autumn	Spring	Summer
Introduction to colour mixing/printing/collage including self-portraits. Autumnal art – Transient art inspired by Leaf Man by Lois Elhert Christmas Cards/crafts	Fantasy paintings Van Gogh – The Starry Night Children to make a textured background and silhouette foreground Easter cards / crafts	Observational drawings/paintings/collages of flowers. Sunflower paintings in style of Van Gogh Clay animals