

Early Years Outcomes for Expressive Arts and Design: D&T

Nursery

3 and 4 years olds:

Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar

Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park.

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.

Reception

Expressive Arts and Design:

Children in Reception:

Expressive Arts and Design:

Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.

Return to build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.

Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills.

Early Learning Goals:

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.

Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

Being imaginative and expressive:

Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.

Nursery Cycle 1 Expressive Arts and Design		D&T 2025 - 2026
Autumn	Spring	Summer
Introduction to a variety of construction kits/resources and the areas where they are stored within the setting – both inside and outside. Learning basic skills of joining (glue, tape, pins etc), cutting, shaping and assembling using a variety of materials (both bought kits and junk/recycled materials). Healthy Eating - fruit salad Cookery – linked to maths & science week (financial capability) Introduction to using cookery equipment safely e.g. cutters, rolling pin weighing scales etc. Christmas craft including a tree decoration.	Rockets models using junk and construction kits. (linked to maths 2D and 3D shapes) Continue to develop basic skills of joining (glue, tape, pins etc), cutting, shaping and assembling using a variety of materials (both bought kits and junk/recycled materials). Making junk model boats – also change it... create a form of transport from large boxes in groups. Develop planning for a specific purpose and teamwork. Continue to provide opportunities to develop the use of construction kits/resources.	Making small wooden spoon puppets linked to Jack and the Beanstalk. Continue to develop basic skills of joining (glue, tape, pins etc), cutting, shaping and assembling using a variety of materials (both bought kits and junk/recycled materials). Continue to provide opportunities to develop the use of construction kits/resources. Link to creating maps / habitats.

Reception Cycle 1 Expressive Arts and Design		D&T 2025 - 2026
Autumn	Spring	Summer
Introduction to a variety of construction kits/resources and the areas where they are found within the setting – both inside and outside. Healthy eating – fruit kebabs. Also making bread linked to 'Little Red Hen'. Wooden spoon puppets – Using felt (fantasy or fairy-tale). Maths and Science Week – cookery (linked to financial capability). Development of basic joining skills using cello tape and glue, PVA Clay Christmas Decoration: developing skills using rolling pins, cutters and finishing techniques.	Continue to develop use of a variety of construction kits/resources and the areas where they are found within the setting – both inside and outside. Reclaimed materials modelling – Children to create a train. Development of planning for purpose, resourcing materials, joining techniques. Cello tape, glue and finishing techniques. Also use of construction kits to support design process.	Continue to develop use of a variety of construction kits/resources and the areas where they are found within the setting – both inside and outside. Mechanism - Make a pop-up (cup) animal in its habitat