

Sample activities to support key learning in Exploring Media and Materials – Art

Art processes and techniques including contexts (indoors and outdoors)

Painting (including printing)

- Teach the children different painting and printing techniques using the resources available, including:
 - How to mix colours (e.g. two colours, different shades of the same colour etc).
 - How to print with different resources (e.g. pressing, dabbing, overlapping, including using hands, fingers, knuckles, fruit/vegetables, objects and fabrics with different textures/surfaces, hard and soft, natural objects etc).
 - How to use different sized/types of paint brushes to create different effects.
 - How to create patterns using different resources. Look at animal prints, fabric and wallpaper patterns, etc.
- Encourage children to paint in different places/spaces both large and small, such as on easels, floors, walls and fences both indoors and outside throughout the year, changing the focus and developing skills as appropriate. (e.g. let the children paint on large surfaces (tuff spot, on paper pinned to boards outside, on Perspex sheets outside, etc.)) and then explore making patterns with their hands/fingers, tools etc.
- Encourage children to select their own paper from a roll, strips of paper, large/small sheets, different colours/textures or whatever you have provided for them. Prompt children to talk about their choices and why.
- Offer a range of tools and equipment to choose from, presented in different ways, and encourage children to select their own paints/colours, and tools and equipment for painting, including apron, newspaper, mixing pallets.
- Encourage children to clean and tidy away equipment and resources. Use small pieces of cardboard/paper plates as mixing pallets which are easily disposable, and a bucket of water to wash brushes if the sink is not available.
- Use photographs, pictures, books and stories to stimulate ideas for painting, including colours, textures, patterns and images.
- Use seasons, weather, celebrations and topics as a focus for painting, encouraging children to use paint to represent their experiences (e.g. create an art studio in the classroom or in the outdoor area).
- Explore and experiment with different types of paint (e.g. finger, ready mix, block, water colours, inks) and consistency of paint (e.g. thick, runny, paint blocks, powder), and paint which has materials added to create different textures (e.g. sand, sawdust, washing up liquid, PVA).
- Use a variety of tools for applying paint (e.g. different size and thickness of brushes, different types of brushes, washing up bottles, nails, mop heads, spatulas, rollers, cotton buds and other resources including feathers, twigs, string, ribbons, etc).
- Explore what happens when colours are mixed. Experience and create different colours, shades and tints and develop a colour vocabulary.
- Experiment with different techniques and develop skills when working with different materials (e.g. painting (dabbling, twirling, dribbling) and printing (pressing on and off by stamping, rolling etc)).
- Become familiar with the language associated with painting including printing (e.g. brush stroke, roll, press, twirl, spread, dab, thick, thin, gentle, firm, etc).
- Explore different ways of printing such as making light prints and dark prints, printing over print marks and shapes, and printing into other surfaces (e.g. sand, clay, mud, etc).
- Explore different ways of printing using different parts of the hand and fingers (e.g. side, palm, tips, whole hand, knuckles), with hard junk (boxes, bottles tops), soft junk (e.g. wool, bubble wrap, net, sponge), lines/circles etc).
- Use different techniques such as overlapping, apart, in a line, repeating, random, etc.
- Combine different printing materials and explore printing in the same colour of different shades, contrasting colours, mono tones etc.