



**'The Arts'  
in the  
Foundation Stage**



*Building Together in the Foundation Stage  
Information for Parents/Carers*

CASS  
Early Years  
Team

**NEEB**  
Developing People for Life



Within 'the Arts' children should be enabled to develop knowledge, understanding and skills as detailed ~

## Art & Design

- ◆ observe and respond to things seen, handled, remembered and imagined;
- ◆ investigate and talk about colours, lines, shapes, textures and patterns;
- ◆ look at/respond to a piece of work by artists, designers, illustrators, etc.;
- ◆ explore and use a wide range of materials and processes;
- ◆ create and develop ideas using colours, lines, shapes, textures and patterns;
- ◆ talk about own and other pupils work, and how the work was made...

...progressing to:

- ◆ using senses to explore; attend to detail; begin to use visual language & appreciate visual qualities; value own/others' work; discuss process used; explore/discover qualities of materials/make choices; develop range of skills.

## Music

- ◆ work creatively with sound;
- ◆ sing and perform with simple instruments;
- ◆ listen and respond to own and others' music making...

...progressing to:

- ◆ be aware of and perform steady beat;
- ◆ distinguish between loud/quiet, high/low, long/short, fast/slow music;
- ◆ listen to & repeat simple rhythms;
- ◆ make music;
- ◆ watch & respond to start/stop signals;
- ◆ value own/others' contributions to music making & performing.

## Drama

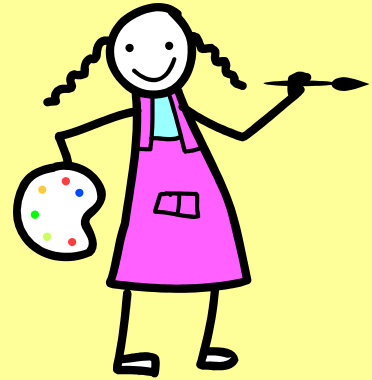
- ◆ express thoughts, ideas and feelings;
- ◆ develop their creativity through imaginative play;
- ◆ engage in dramatic play to extend the learning;
- ◆ take part in a range of drama games and strategies...

...progressing to:

- ◆ co-operate during role play, negotiate roles, agree rules, act out scenarios;
- ◆ express thoughts, feelings, ideas and imagination with confidence in a range of dramatic contexts using verbal and non-verbal language;
- ◆ adopt and sustain a role.

Children will have opportunity to develop skills, understanding and knowledge in 'The Arts' through a range of experiences including:

multisensory activities ~ exploration of stimuli, e.g. feeling texture, looking/observing materials; investigating work by artists/illustrators/sculptors; exploring colours; dissolving food colouring at water play; drawing, painting, printing; modelling with dough, clay; cutting/sticking ~ making collages and 3D models.



working creatively with sound – exploring instruments; making and using own instruments/sound makers; singing/rhymes with/without actions/movement; 'steady beat' activities; dance activities; games to discriminate fast/slow, quiet/loud, long/short sounds, etc.; use of ICT software, listening centre, CDs...



opportunities to engage in a variety of role play scenarios, e.g. home play, café, pet shop, hospital play, garden centre, etc.; dressing up and communicating in role; using puppets/soft toys/masks/props/story sacks creatively or to re-enact a story; engaging in drama games and strategies; taking part in assemblies and school performances; talking to a range of audiences, e.g. 'show and tell'.





## Suggestions to support the development of 'the arts' at home...

- Keep aprons and covers for your table/floor convenient for use by your child.
- Expect your child to help and involve them in 'tidy up'.
- Provide children with a wide selection of pencils, pens, markers, paper, cards, writing pads, old envelopes, greetings cards, etc. to encourage early drawing/writing – don't worry if there are lots of 'scribbles' – all builds confidence and physical skills!
- Encourage children to use paint – with brushes, fingers, hands, objects to be used for printing ...
- Supervise children in using scissors and glue/sticky tape to create collages or 3D models with junk materials.
- Make dough with your child and also use plasticene, clay, mud (!) to mould and model.
- Listen to lots of different types of music in the home – encourage response, e.g. sing along, move/dance, discuss feelings.
- Support your child in singing well known simple rhymes and songs; sing along to TV ads and theme tunes!
- Create music together – make up silly songs, use percussion instruments.
- Encourage your child to use puppets for 'pretend play' and to retell stories or create own stories.
- Provide some simple props and dressing-up clothes to encourage your child to engage in role play, e.g. tea set, old hats, shoes, bags, coins for shop play, etc. Sometimes play with your child taking on different roles.
- Visit galleries, art exhibitions, children's drama productions, dance festivals, live music performances ... talk with your child about the experience and their response.