

Expressive Arts & Design

In Caterpillar class children are exposed to expressive arts from their very first 'taster session'. We encourage the children to get 'stuck into' hand painting explorations so that we can display them on the walls. We continue to offer the children an extensive arts curriculum across the academic year. Our intention is to expose the children to as much of the creative curriculum as we can through fun and engaging adult led and child led activities.

Painting and colour explorations

The children have opportunities to explore colour through painting activities. It all starts with hand painting.

- The children love to explore how it feels as it squishes between their fingers.
- We explore different colours throughout the term.
- We link our colour explorations to the story of the week or the season.



We also create lots of collaborative art work. This really helps the children learn to take turns and share resources as well as physical space.



We explore colour mixing and how to make specific colours for a purpose.

Making elephant grey is always fun.



Maths in Art



We use a wide range of resources to explore other areas of learning too. Number is everywhere so we often use maths resources with paint to allow the children to make purposeful links in their learning and exploration.



We continue to explore shape and pattern through painting as well.



Making models and developing skills



We learn to scrunch, roll, bend and mould materials like newspaper, card and foil.



Then we learn how to attach materials together using sticky tape, masking tape, string, paperclips and treasury tags. Sometimes this is really tricky. It's a great way to learn to follow adult instruction but also provides a way to learn through exploration.



The children learn to further develop these new skills through repeating the process. This may be a similar activity or making independent models at the work bench or participating in adult led group projects.



Through these sorts of activities the children develop their own skills but also learn to support peers, work as a team and develop an understanding of cooperative play. As the term progresses we begin to explore more complex mediums and modelling materials.

Paper Mache

We provide the children with opportunities to explore with various modelling mediums to enable them to create really purposeful and meaning full models.



It doesn't always go well.

This is a really important part of the learning journey for us in nursery. Sometimes it goes wrong, sometimes we can fix it. We learn that it is ok to get it wrong sometimes. We talk about it and learn from our mistakes. Sometimes, the 'mistakes' turn out to be just wonderful too! We focus on the process and not the end result!

Messy play and natural materials

We offer the children opportunities to explore lots of natural materials and produce in their play. From baked beans and cooked spaghetti to cold custard and food colouring. This provides so many opportunities for development from fine motor skills to hand eye coordination. We talk about how it feels on our hands which provides fantastic vocabulary around their senses and feelings.



Modelling and malleable materials

Through our continuous provision we offer different types of modelling/malleable materials. Again, these are usually linked to seasonal produce or our story of the week. We use natural materials like herbs, spices and seeds to enhance play. The learning opportunities are open ended, so one child may discover smell and their sense whilst another may develop an understanding of size, shape or pattern. The adults observe this play and offer more challenge and individual next steps for the following session.



Using our story of the week as a spring board for play and learning we provide materials to support independent play. The gingerbread man- cutters and dough. Dinosaur stories- Dino cutters are provided.



Children can always independently access the playdough or plastacine to create wonderful models. We place great value on these models documenting them on the children's tapestry accounts to share with you at home.





Freshly made playdough is always a popular activity. The children love to mix and mould the warm dough together. It is a very social activity where the children communicate between themselves chatting about how big their piece is, how it feels, the temperature of the dough and so much more.



We use products like shaving foam, conditioner, flour and cornflour to explore textures and discover 'changes of state'.

Music and movement

We have a song for everything at nursery, from the 'Tidy up Rhumba' to counting and letter songs. Every session, during carpet time the children are exposed to a bank of familiar songs and nursery rhymes. Our morning songs are full of actions and repetition which the children love to engage in 'Shaking our Sillies out' and 'There was a Crocodile' Snapping their arms with delight!

We incorporate musical instruments as often as possible. The children love to 'bang the drum' as the ants go marching. We use whole body percussion, hand clapping and foots stomping in a wide range of our songs.

Key workers will work with their children in small groups to explore the musical instruments in more depth but children are always able to access the music trolley independently throughout the nursery day.

Role play

Whether we are 'sailing the sea's or 'flying to the moon' we do so with as much creativity and emersion as possible. The children are usually involved with the planning process. Our role-play areas come from the children's own interest. If a group are particularly engaged or interested in a topic or story we use it to develop play opportunities.

Our boat, inspired by reading 'Lost and Found'.



A very busy Garden Centre







Feeding 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'.

How you can support your child's learning at home.

The children love to share their experiences of 'home life' with us at nursery. Please do upload images and videos for us to share with their peers. It might be as simple as making cookies, a painting, some lovely role play at home with siblings.

We also have some simple recipes and ideas booklets that you are welcome to borrow. Please speak to your keyworker if you would like one.