



Parent Interaction Session – Exploring Art

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD) is one of the seven areas of learning within the EYFS framework. It involves supporting children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas, and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

This parent interaction session will focus on creative art activities within the area of Expressive Arts and Design.

Encouraging children to develop their creative skills can also develop many other areas of children's development; it can develop their language skills whilst building on their self-esteem, foster sensory perception, provide the opportunity to represent and symbolize experiences, offers children a chance to experiment, create, and build, strengthens their ability to think and make decisions. Children have a natural tendency to create. We see this daily in their play, and art is one medium through which children can satisfy this need to create and express themselves.

What we provide at Kindergarten

The children have access to a wide variety of creative resources, such as, paint, crayons, chalks, pastels etc. as well materials for junk modelling, collage and play dough. We encourage the children to explore materials, experiment with textures and combine different media to create new and original effects!

Process not Product

At Kindergarten we place value on the processes rather than the finished product. "Process" means allowing children to explore art materials with freedom without the pressure to copy a model or stay in the lines. Process is experimenting with paints, watching the mixing colours, and feeling the textures. Process is gluing various sizes, shapes, and colours of paper together to create a collage. Process is freedom to experiment and enjoy the feeling of creating without being concerned with the outcome or the product. Process is creating something that is uniquely yours and not a copy of someone else's.

What you can do to support your child's expressive abilities

Encourage your child in the artistic process by questioning and commenting on their endeavours. Comments should focus on the experience, the process. Avoid asking questions such as, "What are you making?" and, instead, comment on the process, using comments such as, "I like the red colour in your picture." Your goal should be to make your child feel comfortable, confident, and successful. It is important that you value all creative attempts for example scribbles may not make any sense to an adult. They look like lots of lines, loops and squiggles but these marks are very important to a young child. They are a child's way of writing their thoughts. Drawing and scribbling are the first steps in using the skills children will need later for writing.