

Expressive Arts and Design at Rockwood Nursery School

What is it?

Expressive arts and design is an opportunity for children to begin their creative journey. It allows children to explore and play with a wide variety of media and materials as well as providing opportunities to be creative, independent, think flexibly, express and respond to feelings, ideas and experiences. These are encouraged through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role play and design and technology. Being creative and imaginative is fundamental in every area of the curriculum.

In the revised EYF5 EAD is broken down into two aspects:

Exploring and Using media and materials

This aspect allows the children to experiment with song, music and dance.

Children listen to a variety of music and are encouraged to respond in their own unique way, whether it's singing along, adding sound using percussion or moving in response to what they hear. Allowing children to choose how they express themselves is paramount to feeling safe and in turn begin to learn.



Children build simple constructions using a variety of resources using their own ideas and designs. Allowing children to design, construct and redesign enables them to think critically about its use and purpose and how it can be used within their play. Allowing children time to experiment and be creative is as important as the end result.



Being imaginative

This aspect is about playing with ideas, initiating their own learning, responding imaginatively and presenting their thoughts and feelings through music, movement, art and role play. Children develop their own preferences for forms of expression, whether that be singing to themselves, making up their own songs and rhythms, using and creating movement in response to music or engaging in role play.



What we do at Rockwood to support children's EAD

At Rockwood we encourage children's creativity and imagination by providing an enriched environment to allow children to be able to explore and experiment through spontaneous play and adult focussed activities both indoors and outdoors.



We try to make our role play as realistic as possible. We have 'real' equipment and utensils for the children to play with. This allows the children to engage with and imitate what they

know through first hand experiences. Staff enhance children's play by supporting/extending knowledge, understanding and speech by offering new vocabulary and ideas, asking open ended questions and modelling play. We provide materials, scarves, bags, hats and props to support role play and encourage open ended play ideas. Through the child's interest, observations and planning we enhance the role play area to further extend the children's learning e.g. dentist, hairdressers, Santa's grotto.



In the front garden we have a mud kitchen where children can use natural resources to create their own recipes and bring their imagination to life, e.g. witches potions, barbequing.



In forest school, the children are free to explore the surroundings where further opportunities to enhance their imagination take place.



Continuous provision in the music area offers a range of musical instruments, a catalogue of different styles of music for the children to listen/create movement/express themselves.

We welcome parents to bring their own instruments into nursery for music/dance sessions and also outside agencies. E.g Push Punjali - Bollywood dancing.

Rockwood staff are committed and enthusiastic about children's expressive arts and design development and strive for children to achieve their full potential.



