

Expressive Arts and Design

Being creative is about making new things, taking risks, experimenting, coming up with new ideas, being imaginative, solving problems and coping with uncertainty. Creative play, both indoors and outdoors, not only helps foster these skills but can also assist with emotional development and social interaction.

We know that young children learn and develop through:

- exploring and experimenting in sensory and playbased activities;
- encouragement and stimulation by adults helping them to express their ideas, extend their creativity and develop originality of thought; and
- opportunities to explore and share those thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art and design, music, movement, dance, dramatic and role-play experiences, with adults' encouragement and support

We believe that children need time and opportunities to sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them. They need to learn how to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Children need to have opportunities to use what they have learnt about the different media and materials available to them in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They have time to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through our provision and activity ideas.

At Ditton Nursery we aim to ensure that children have opportunities to:

- Explore sound, texture, shape, form and space in 2 and 3 dimensions; learn how to join and combine different materials
- Be encouraged to experience and respond creatively to what they see, hear, smell, touch and taste
- Have access to activities and experiences that promote imaginative play
- Be encouraged to observe and listen through art, music, dance and stories
- Learn and sing a range of songs thinking about the pitch and how this changes melodically in a song
- Be inventive with sounds and music – making their own songs, exploring and changing the sounds of instruments / sound makers
- Be provided with an extensive range of resources that allow them to explore, formulate ideas, express their creativity and communicate their feelings
- Be taught how to use resources and processes such as colour mixing, gluing and printing.
- Develop their drawing skills – enclosing shapes, using these shapes to represent