

# Design and Technology in the Early Years

Design and Technology at Foundation Stage (Reception) is covered in the 'Expressive Arts and Design' area of the EYFS Curriculum, however, some of the skills that children develop are covered in the Gross Motor and Fine Motor Skills Sections of Physical Development which is a prime area of the curriculum. Design and Technology is introduced through activities that require the children to express themselves in different ways as they learn to experience working with a range of tools and materials.

Early Years Design and Technology helps the children develop skills in the prime areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum such as Communication and Language and Personal, Social and Emotional Development as they discuss ideas and processes and learn to work independently as they self-select materials and tools and also as they learn to cooperate with others on joint projects.

Some of the Design and Technology work that the children become involved in is through them using readily available resources in the indoor and outdoor environments. Children may start working on an area of interest and then adults intervene to develop the children's learning through discussions and relevant enhancements. In this way, the children take ownership of the task while developing the skills and knowledge necessary to move their learning forward.

The development of tool skills is important and children are taught to use several one handed tools such as scissors, single and double hole punches, tape and tape dispensers, rolling pins, stencils and cutters. These are lifelong skills that prepare the children purposeful tasks at school and at home.

Design and Technology is carefully planned for in the curriculum. The children at St. Augustine's School work on half termly Art or Design and Technology topics which allow them to develop skills and knowledge in a more structured way whilst also helping them develop their vocabulary of art techniques and skills. Other curriculum areas are weaved into the children's work so for example during the children's work on the built environment through the 'Take a trip' topic, the children were introduced to the work of L.S. Lowry and worked on designing and making homes and buildings. During the children's work on God's creation and the natural world, they chose to design and make homes for bugs, modifying their designs as they worked to cater for the needs of the creatures.

All this work in Reception, helps our children develop their creativity, skills, knowledge and understanding, while developing their vocabulary of art and design, thus preparing them for their work in Year 1.



Working collaboratively to design and making a structure , modifying and improving it as they work.

A Rescue Crane designed and made by a child as a child-initiated activity.



Learning to use one handed tools-scissors in a focused activity.



.Making a 'fast car' with construction and describing the design.

