

These are our 'Top Tips' to help you enjoy your child's journey of learning together...

- ★ Show that you value what your child creates, especially if they have put effort into doing it. Try not to say "What is it?" (It might never have been meant to "be" anything. Many modern works of art are not meant to represent objects or people.)
- ★ Encourage your child to talk about the creation by saying something like "That looks interesting, tell me something about it."
- ★ Introduce vocabulary to enable your child to talk about their observations and experiences. For example smooth, shiny, rough, prickly, flat, patterned, jagged, bumpy, soft and hard.
- ★ If possible, provide opportunities for mark-making activities at home. It does not have to be messy or expensive. Paper can be the back of old rolls of wallpaper or computer print outs.
- ★ Three primary paint colours (red, yellow and blue) plus black and white, will enable children to mix a wide range of colours, or you might prefer to provide felt pens or pencils. Provide thicker pens or pencils for young children, as they find these easier to grip.
- ★ Keep your child company, you may be surprised to see how long they concentrate on this activity. Some children talk when drawing, colouring and "writing". You can learn a lot about what your child is thinking and how they feel about the World, during such times.
- ★ Support your child in thinking about what they might want to make, the process that may be involved and the materials and resources they might need, such as a photograph to remind them what the climbing frame is like.
- ★ If you have space, allow your child to collect things she likes the look or feel of, such as leaves, scraps of fabric, lids and stoppers or packaging material. These can be glued into arrangements of the child's choice, using a piece of card from a cereal packet and some PVA glue.
- ★ Allow your child to explore music and movement to a range of genres of music. Your child may prefer to move to your rock music or sway to some jazz. It is good to let them explore their likes and dislikes of music and movement.
- ★ Give your child the opportunity to explore rhythm and rhyme. Singing nursery rhymes or making up your own silly rhyme can encourage your child to keep a beat and explore sounds.
- ★ Join in with your child's role play and extend the story. Have you ever tried reversing roles as your child may enjoy being the mummy or daddy whilst you cry and whine for your food?

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises 7 different areas of learning. **Expressive arts and design** is one of the 4 Specific Areas.

Self Expression is an important aspect of life. Being creative means being able to take existing knowledge, ideas and materials and use them in a different way to make something new. It is needed therefore as much by scientists as artists. Creativity cannot be taught or forced, but it can be stimulated, supported, resourced and welcomed.

The Early Learning Goals:

(This is the level of attainment which children should be expected to attain at the end of the foundation stage, age 5.)

More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from the foundation years website: www.foundationyears.org.uk.

Other useful websites:

<http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com>

<http://www.familylearning.org.uk>

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/>

<http://nrich.maths.org/early-years> is

Yellow Dot is a small Group of Children's Nurseries based in Hampshire. Its hard working team have achieved amazing results with all the settings acknowledged by Ofsted to have Outstanding qualities! Thank you for choosing Yellow Dot to care for your child.

