

# Creative Arts

Supporting Your 4 - 5 Year Old Child in

# Creative Arts

Parent Advice Booklet

# What Is This Guide?

What do we mean by creative arts? In the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in how they express themselves in creative or artistic ways. This guide can help you understand what that development might look like for your child and how you can help them.

This guide breaks down the EYFS framework into simple sections and statements, providing you with simple explanations of what creative arts might look like for your child at this stage of their learning. Each area has ideas for supporting your child through fun and engaging activities, whether your child is only just experimenting with drawing and painting or they are more secure in creating models and pictures independently.

Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development.

You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in creative arts, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the early years section.



# Exploring and Using Media and Materials

From an early age, your child may have explored using different kinds of media, such as paint, crayons and chalks. They may have also used some construction-based resources like building blocks or junk-modelling materials to create a range of images or models. At this age, they can start learning the different skills and techniques they could use to express their creativity, such as mixing colours or using craft tools.

## At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

## To support this, you could...

exploring what happens when they mix colours.

provide your child with the primary colours (red, blue and yellow) and ask them how they might make a different colour.

experimenting to create different textures.

mix oats, sand or flour into paint and see how it changes the texture. Can they add water to paint? What will happen?

understanding that different media can be combined to create new effects.

encourage your child to make something using a range of materials, such as small cardboard boxes or yoghurt pots to create something new.

manipulating materials to achieve a planned effect.

introduce your child to playdough or clay and use different tools to make an effect. Using scissors to snip paper is also a great skill to practice.

constructing with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources.

look at a book or images of things you could create or have an idea in mind before you start making.

selecting tools and techniques needed to shape, assemble and join materials they are using.



provide your child with tools such as scissors and hole punchers for them to use safely and independently.

selecting appropriate resources and adapting work where necessary.


ensure your child has a wide range of materials and tools to pick and choose what to use when.

# Exploring and Using Media and Materials



How is your child progressing with exploring media and materials?



You can encourage independent creativity with a paint area at home. If you have room, why not have a drawer or cupboard of art supplies, aprons and newspaper (to minimise mess) that your child can access to set up some art time?



Junk modelling uses up things that may normally be thrown away at home, including cardboard tubes, bubble wrap, tinfoil, food packaging and plastic bottles. Your child can construct using sticky tape, child-friendly scissors, ribbon, glue, sequins or stickers.



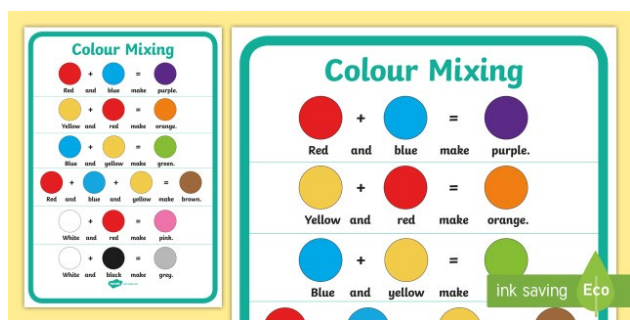
Playdough is a great material for encouraging creativity and using tools such as rolling pins, rollers and different shaped cutters. Can they copy an image or plan their designs on paper first?



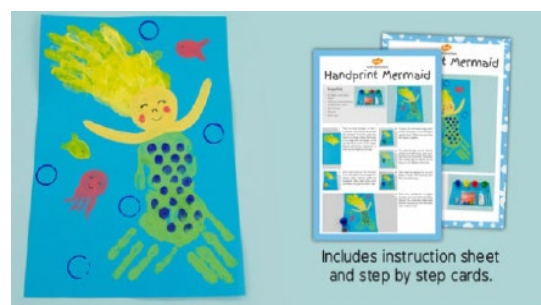
Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



# Exploring and Using Media and Materials



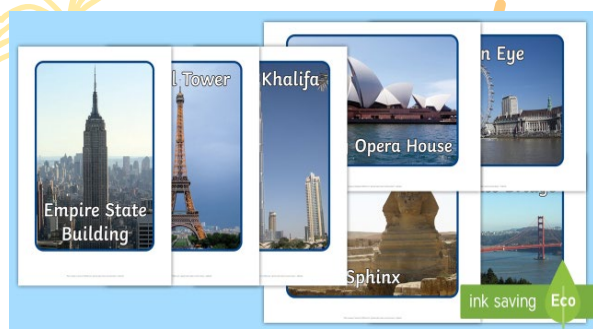
Colour Mixing Poster



Handprint Mermaid



Colour Sensory Bag



Famous Buildings Visuals



Animal Footprint Art Activity Pack



# Being Imaginative

During reception, your child will be encouraged to be imaginative and express themselves in different ways. Children are more likely to use their imaginations if they have a variety of appropriate resources, which they can then use to represent their ideas through role play, art, dance or movement. As your child experiments with being imaginative, they will also most likely be developing their social skills through sharing, turn-taking and problem-solving.

**At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...**

**To support this, you could...**

creating simple representations of events, people and objects.

encourage your child to draw or paint pictures, create models or role play scenarios based on people and events familiar to them.

introducing a storyline or narrative into their play.

model creating a story around a toy or game, e.g. pretending you are chefs, dentists or dinosaurs.

playing alongside other children who are engaged in the same game and playing cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a narrative.

arrange a playdate with one or two other children and encourage them to do some role play by providing them with a few props or costumes.

representing their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

support your child with coming up with ideas for what they might like to do.

# Being Imaginative



How is your child progressing with exploring being imaginative?

Create a role-play box with a range of open-ended materials that you already have at home, e.g. old electronics, kitchen utensils, clothing, blankets, binoculars. Almost anything can be used to inspire storytelling and physical role play.

You can bring the wider world into your living room by setting up a role play space or small world setup; why not open a cafe, ride on an aeroplane, take a splash in the ocean or help a rabbit at the vets?

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?

Encourage imaginative play by inspiring your child through visits to art galleries, libraries, cinemas, theatres, local dance shows or exhibitions. It might spark something new to try!

# Being Imaginative



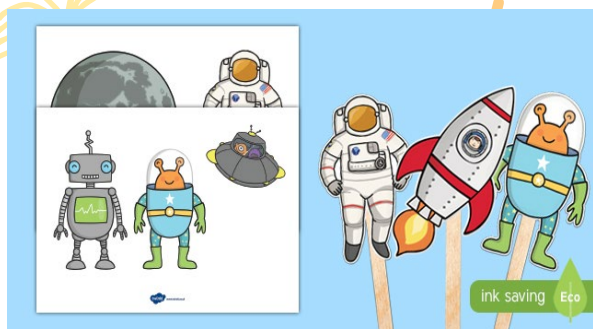
People Who Help Us Role-Play Masks



Cafe Role-Play Pack



Builder's Yard Role-Play Pack



Space-Themed Stick Puppets



Storytelling Stick Puppets



# Exploring Music and Sound

Introducing your child to different types of music and rhyme is not only great for further developing their listening and understanding skills, it is also good for building up their vocabulary, while encouraging them to notice pattern, rhythm and rhyme within songs. Exploring music through movement is a fantastic way for your child to express themselves in imaginative ways, as well as further developing their balance, control and coordination.

At 4 - 5 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

initiating new combinations of movement and gesture in order to express and respond to feelings, ideas and experiences.

help your child to express themselves in different ways, through expression, hand gestures or movement.

building a repertoire of songs and dances.

play different types of music at home and have a dance party; show your child different moves and sing along to your favourites.

exploring the different sounds of instruments.

introduce a few simple musical instruments into your home, such as a xylophone, keyboard or drum and explore what sounds you could make.

singing songs, making music and dances and experimenting with ways of changing them.

encourage your child to make up their own dance or model changing the lyrics to a simple song like 'Old MacDonald.'

# Exploring Music and Sound

How is your little one progressing with music and sound?

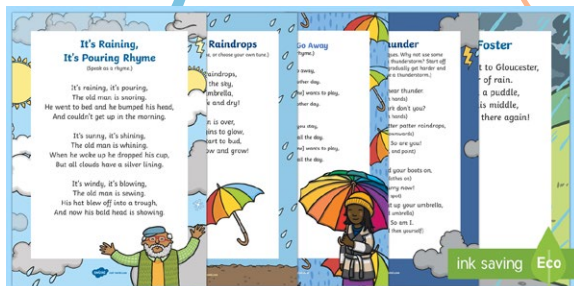


Make Your Own Musical Instruments Instructions

Music playlists of different genres are great for singing and dancing to! Can your child help choose songs they enjoy to include? Dancing around to gentle music while making breakfast can be a fun activity together.

Experiment with changing lyrics to well-known songs or try making up your own nursery rhymes together.

Why not create your own musical instruments to see what different kinds of sounds you can make? Can your child make something from empty bottles, dry rice, pasta or beads, elastic bands or stretched balloons?

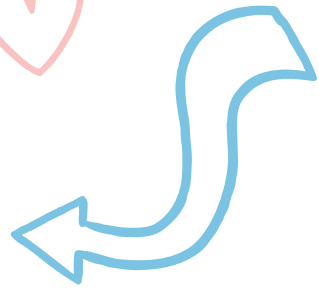


Weather Songs and Rhymes Pack

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



Journal nice moments  
or record key  
dates here:



Stick a photo of your child here:




# Support and Challenge

After reading this guide and trying out some of the activities with your child, you may find that they require more support with some activities than others. This is perfectly OK; some concepts are more difficult than others and with more practice, your child should begin to make more progress. On the other hand, if your child is able to do most of these activities easily, then perhaps they need a challenge?



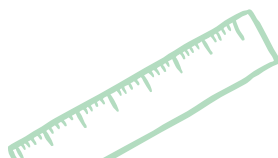

Our Parent Guide to Creative Arts for Ages 3 - 4 may be more suitable for your child if they aren't quite ready for some of the activities in this guide. Why not take a step back and try some of the ideas listed in there first and develop their self-confidence?

If your child seems to be beyond the activities and skills in this guide, you may be wondering how you could help them further. Why not encourage your child to become more independent when creating? They can plan and draw designs of what they would like to make, write a list of the things they will need and discuss ideas for how they will be able to connect their ideas with appropriate tools. After creating, encourage your child to talk about what went well with their design and what they might do differently next time. Alternatively, you can always find more resources on the **Twinkl Parents Hub**.



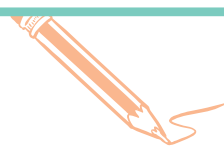
# Explore and Discover More





Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



Children develop rapidly in their first five years, more so than any other period of their young life. Although these guides have been divided by age band, we recognise that all children develop at different rates; this guide should not be used as a tick list of exactly what your child should be able to do at this age, but rather as an indicator of what they may be working towards.