

Supporting Your 3 - 4 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 support their learning at home.

This guide breaks down the EYFS framework into 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 exploring colour and how it can be changed or they are becoming more curious about creating different textures.

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.



In the early years framework, this section is known as Expressive Arts and Design and is used to develop each child's imagination, creativity and ability when using a range of media and materials in a variety of ways, including music, role play, art, dance and movement. Your child is sure to find an aspect of the creative arts to enjoy and practise.



Within school, children will be encouraged to explore what happens when they experiment with using different colours, materials and tools for specific purposes, e.g. using scissors to cut.



Your child will also develop their social and emotional skills as they play with and alongside others. Through imaginative play, a child is able to recreate past experiences, imagine further possibilities and use their communication skills to convey their thoughts and feelings.



Read this guide for practical ideas and advice on how you can further support your child with the different aspects of expressive art and design at home.



# 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 that could be used to express their creativity, such as mixing colours or using craft tools.

At 3 - 4 years old, your child may be working towards...

To support this, you could...

exploring colour and how colours can be changed.

provide your child with lots of opportunities to explore and talk about colours, introducing vocabulary for any new shades of color as they mix.

understanding that they can use lines to enclose a space, and then begin to use these shapes to represent objects.

model drawing simple shapes for your child, such as a square; suggest how this could then be turned into a house by adding windows.

being interested in and describing the texture of things.

model using the language of texture when discussing foods and other sensory experiences, e.g. silky, bumpy, rough and smooth.

using various construction materials.

encourage your child to use different types of building blocks or other construction materials, e.g. cardboard and sticky tape.

constructing in different ways, e.g. stacking blocks vertically and horizontally or making enclosures and creating spaces.

show your child how they can build small worlds (including tall buildings and bridges) to encourage building in different ways.

joining construction pieces together to build and balance.

introduce your child to joining building bricks together or using sticky tape or glue to help connect different materials.

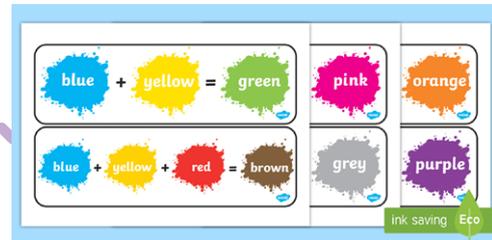
realising tools can be used for a purpose.

show your child how to use tools such as rolling pins and cookie cutters, scissors and hole punchers or tape dispensers to change and join materials.

# Exploring and Using Media and Materials

How is your little one progressing with exploring media and materials?

When painting or colouring in, take the opportunity to talk to your child about the names of different colours. How about introducing more complex colours such as turquoise, lime or lilac? You could also describe using the words light and dark.



Colour Mixing Visual Cards

Explore colour mixing using a clear plastic bottle full of water and some drops of food colouring. If you add yellow to blue, what do they think will happen?



Mindfulness Colouring Sheets



Colouring Sheets

Playdough is a great material for encouraging creativity and using tools such as rolling pins, rollers and different shaped cutters. What can they make?



Texture Word Cards



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

# Being Imaginative

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

**At 3 - 4 years old, your child may be working towards...**

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

using movement to express their feelings and creating movement in response to music.

lead imaginative movement linked to your child's current interests, e.g. moving like astronauts, dinosaurs or butterflies.

noticing what adults do, imitating what is observed and then doing it spontaneously when the adult is not there.

model being imaginative through dancing, singing, painting and reading to encourage your child to also have a love for creativity.

engaging in imaginative role play based on their own first-hand experiences.

create role-play scenarios with your child at home, e.g. at the shop, in a restaurant or at the park.

building stories around toys, e.g. farm animals needing rescue from an armchair 'cliff'.

encourage your child to storytell using their toys. Model using storytelling language such as, 'once upon a time', 'one day' and 'unfortunately' to support your play.

using available resources to create props to support role play.

fill a box with everyday objects which could be used as part of role play, e.g. old phones, hats, soft toys, bags and boxes.

capturing experiences and responses with a range of media, such as music, dance, paint and other materials or words.

encourage your child to express themselves through activities such as painting, modelling, dancing and singing.

# Being Imaginative

How is your little one progressing with being imaginative?

Blank lined area for writing.

Encourage your child to use their imagination by providing a few simple props or items. A hat, wand or drum can be a great starting point for sparking a role-play scenario.

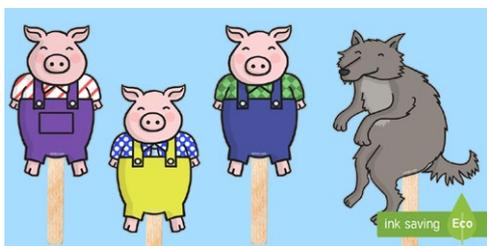


SpaceShip Role Play Pack

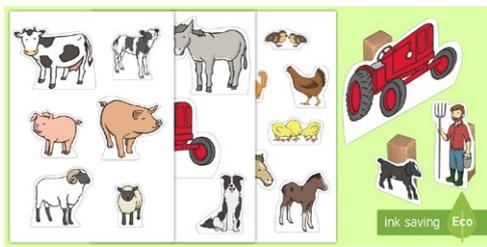
Use 'What if...?' questions to prompt your child's pretend play. It could be something everyday (such as 'What if you got sick?' to prompt a pretend visit to the doctor) or something more extreme (such as 'What if a volcano was about to erupt?').



Restaurant Role Play Pack



The Three Little Pigs Puppets



Farm Small World Characters

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

Blank lined area for writing.

# Exploring Music and Sound

Music encourages children to be curious and imaginative and provides them with opportunities to learn about different cultures and periods of time. 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 through singing. Exploring music through dance will also develop your child's balance, control and coordination skills.

**At 3 - 4 years old, your child may be working towards...**

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

singing to themselves and making up simple songs or rhythms.

sing during day-to-day activities, e.g. in the car, whilst cooking or before bedtime to encourage your child to have a love for singing too.

enjoying joining in with dancing and ring games.

encourage your child to dance to your favourite songs or popular nursery rhymes. Hold hands and skip, jump or twist in time to the music.

singing a few familiar songs.

have a playlist with a few simple songs on that your child can become familiar and join in with.

beginning to move rhythmically.

model moving to a rhythm or beat, clap your hands to show the speed and help your child to move along in time too.

imitating movement in response to music.

have some movement time at home in which you play some music and encourage free movement.

tapping out simple repeated rhythms.

model making up some fun repeated rhythms, e.g. clap, stomp, clap, clap, stomp or tap, clap, tap, clap. See if your child can join in.

exploring and learning how sounds can be changed.

show your child how you can change the sound of certain objects or instruments, e.g. banging a drum harder or faster or shaking a maraca to a beat.

# Exploring Music and Sound



How is your little one progressing with music and sound? *Quinn's?*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Make Your Own Musical Instrument Instructions



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, beads, elastic bands or stretched balloons?



Music playlists of different genres are great for singing and dancing to! Can your child help choose songs they enjoy to include?



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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

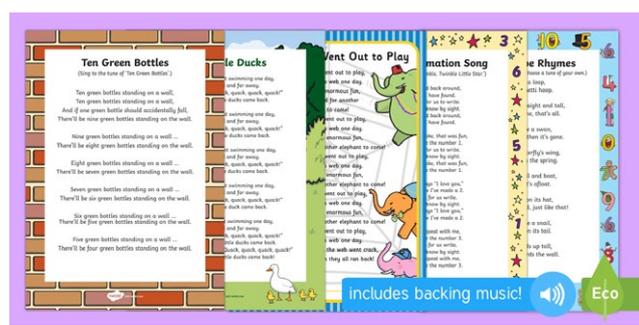
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Number Recognition Song and Rhyme Pack

# 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?

A Parent Guide to Creative Arts for Ages 1 - 3 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 here 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. A Parent Guide to Creative Arts for Ages 4 - 5 has some more ideas and activities that might stretch your child further. Alternatively, you can always find more resources on the **Twinkl Parents hub**.



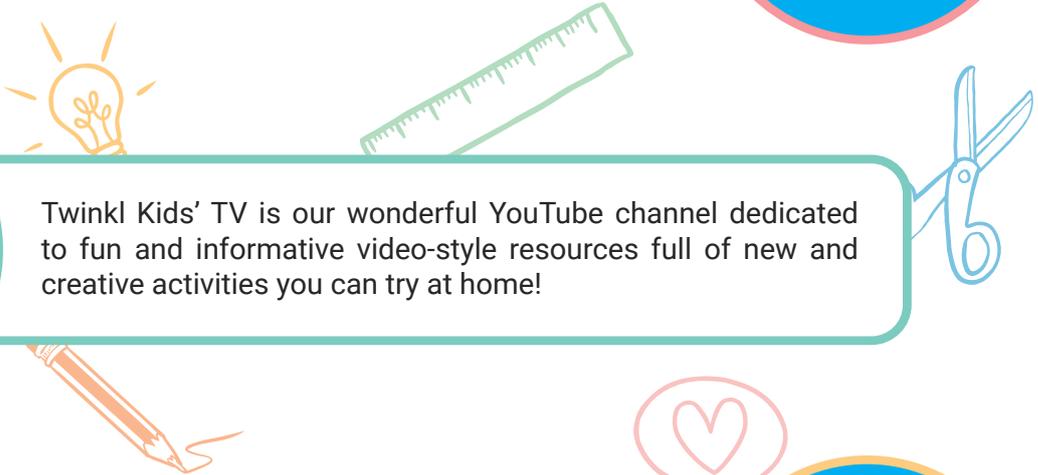
# Explore and Discover More



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.

