

Hosting an Art Week at nursery

This activity guide will help you to host an Art Week at nursery to encourage children to express themselves through creativity.

Learning aims

- To express themselves through art
- To explore different art forms and resources
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Develop their physical skills
- Support language development.

Resources

Painting

- Paper or blank canvas square
- Selection of paints (powder paints, poster paints, finger paints, watercolours etc.). Create different textures with the paint e.g. thick paint
- Selection of different sized paintbrushes/resources for painting
- Paper/card to create a frame around the finished paintings
- Space to mount the children's artwork.



Sculptures

- Clay or salt dough
- Table mats/aprons
- Rollers/cutters
- Paints (optional).

Activity outline

1. Over the Art Week programme introduces a range of different art activities for children (and families) to get involved in. The idea for the programme is to encourage children in arts they may not have tried before so think about the range you can offer or the different ways you can offer materials for art
Introduce the concept of presenting the children's own artwork into an art gallery/art exhibition for parents, friends and family to come and visit (this could be a virtual visit)
2. Before introducing each art form think about artists/examples of art you can share with the children to inspire their interests
3. Present the materials to the children and give them the time and space they need to create their individual pieces of art
4. Think about a space/place that can be used to create an art gallery/exhibition to display the artwork. If using paper for paintings, you may want to add a paper/card frame before putting it on display. If current COVID rules prevent parents from entering the setting, then create a virtual event for parents to view the artwork or take video/photos of the art gallery and share them with parents and families
5. Ideally, in a pre/post-COVID time you would invite parents into the setting to take part in the different arts. You may also ask parents to share their favourite art forms and share artwork e.g. painting rangoli patterns or henna designs. Think creatively about how you can involve parents e.g. sending information and links to local art museums/exhibitions/galleries, asking parents to share their favourite art forms, holding a virtual event/video of the children's work, sending art resources home for children and parents to create together etc.

Extending the activity

Other art forms to explore over the three-week art programme could include:

- 2D/3D structures
- Weaving
- Storytelling
- Music
- Roleplay/drama
- Nature art.

Special considerations

Follow the setting's risk assessments for the activities they introduce to children.