

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Developing your art area

Art provides children with the freedom to explore and experiment with a range of different materials, encouraging and supporting imagination and thinking skills.

As children become more confident in accessing and using art materials, the more skilful they become in expressing themselves through art.

Here are some top tips for creating a stimulating and inclusive art area:



- Where possible, locate your art area in natural light and define the space so children can concentrate and immerse themselves in their creativity
- Encourage children to work independently and together by offering a range of surfaces, e.g. table, cable reel, easel, paper or tuff tray on the floor, fabric sheets on the wall
- Organise independently accessible resources in containers, pots or baskets on shelves or an art trolley
- Provide a range of art materials and resources for children to explore and create with, some examples include:
 - **Mark making:** paints, oil pastels, pencils, pens, chalks, crayons, charcoal, paper, card, easels, branches, shells, pebbles, fabric, different size brushes, sponges, rollers, pipettes, pallets (for colour mixing)
 - **Malleable:** play dough, clay, gloop, slime, boards, rollers, cutters, moulds, materials for imprinting such as buttons, dried pasta, shells and pinecones
 - **Model making:** Recycled packaging, loose parts, fabric, ribbon, scissors, stamps, glue, masking tape, string
- Add provocations to stimulate interest and ideas such as pictures of famous artwork, a vase of flowers, a large shell
- Display children's art at their height. Discuss and reflect on children's learning processes and celebrate their discoveries.

NDNA products to support you

- [Training: EYFS - Expressive Arts and Design](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna