



## **Ashfield Nursery - Expressive Arts and Design Curriculum Intent and Implementation**

Expressive Arts and Design is a crucial part of our curriculum at Ashfield and is used as a vessel to support children's developing knowledge across a variety of topic-based and interest led learning opportunities. We recognise that our children are often inspired to learn through creative approaches to the curriculum. From early access to education within our 2-year-old provision, children participate in singing songs, rhymes, and sensory messy play, this is progressed within main nursery as children begin to explore a wider series of tools and materials to broaden their skills in preparation for school.

Due to the varying starting points of our children, where access to language can act as an initial barrier to learning, we provide activities which allow children of any language to demonstrate their understanding through play. Adults act as play partners to contribute and extend their developing language when they are most interested and ready to learn.

Children are immediately immersed into a creative environment from entry to our 2-year-old unit where access to messy play, small world toys and home-corner play opportunities are readily available within the daily continuous provision. We continue to build on their initial experiences in main Nursery where children learn to draw, paint, cut and create models which demonstrate their growing imaginations. This is achieved through introducing a wider variety of new tools, materials and expanded role play opportunities to develop their skills and creative thinking.

Role play is a key part of supporting children's access to varied experiences so that they develop a greater depth of understanding of the world around them and their place within that world. Children have the opportunity to act within their play. Extending things that they may observe in the home from cooking, cleaning, using the phone, shopping to extending their understanding through cultural role plays relating to recent celebrations, and extending their understanding of their local services, police officers, ambulance workers and firefighters.

As a school we access Sage music on a weekly basis where classes throughout the school have the opportunity to work with a specialist music practitioner. Children have access to a wide range of percussion instruments, song bags and stretchy fabrics, through fun, engaging activities children develop strong listening skills and understanding of beat and rhythm which acts as excellent preparation for phonic distinguishing. The tapping of a steady beat attunes children's ears to begin to hear the sounds in words which is a skill required for early reading and writing.

Our relationships with the families we serve are an essential part of how we build our curriculum, from embracing cultural celebrations within our role play and food tasting sessions, to inviting parents to participate in our termly stay and play sessions where creative activities help support parents as to what they can use in the home to help develop their children's learning.

It is directly through evoking children's curiosity that we broaden a range of wider skills which prepares them for school.