

Start Well

Early Years Communication and Language Development Service

Tip of the Month for Practitioners – August 2022

Expressive arts and design: “The development of children’s artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity” EYFS 2021

The quality and variety of what children see, hear, and participate in, is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary, and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to, and observe.

Support children’s play by sensitively observing and joining in. Help by modelling appropriate language as you play alongside them, e.g., have two sets of resources on the creative table so you can model ‘making objects with playdough’. Support children by commenting on the actions you or the child are doing. “*I’m going to cut my playdough*”, “*next, I’m going to pat it*”, and “*then I’m going to make a big flat pancake*”. Model or join in pretend play, such as pretending to drink from an empty cup or feeding a teddy. This helps to support and develop children’s social interactions and play skills.

Sing songs regularly so that children learn the words, melody, and actions by heart. Introduce children to songs from different cultures and languages. Think about your own pitch (high/low) when singing as children’s voices are higher than adults voices. Encourage them to use their ‘singing voice’ when asked to sing rather than shouting.

Sing slowly so that children hear the words and the melody of the song. Clap or tap out the beat of songs or music and encourage children to do this.

Help children to develop their listening skills through a range of active listening activities. Play sound matching games.

Introduce descriptive language to support older children within the context of their own imaginative experiences. Talk to children about the difference between colours, help them to explore and refine their colour-mixing, e.g. How does blue become green?

For further information and ideas see the DfE Good Practice guidance
<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/expressive-arts-and-design>

Songs of the Month

‘Round and round the garden’/ ‘Five little monkeys’

Additional information can be found online on the Bolton Start Well website www.boltonstartwell.org.uk

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