Our Expressive Arts and Design Curriculum Intentions

At Monkchester Road expressive arts and design plays a very important role in our children's development and links closely to all areas of the curriculum, with emphasis on first hand experiences.

Staff plan all EAD activities for both indoors and outdoors. Staff know that the characteristics of learning are about the creative process unfolding as children work out ways either collaboratively or individually to put their ideas into action.

We value imaginative play encouraging the children to express their ideas by providing relevant, meaningful equipment and materials. Our children love to take part in role play activities with opportunities in every classroom, outdoors and even in our forest area.

Singing and nursery rhymes are embedded into our daily practises. Our daily activities include the exploration of musical instruments and the sounds they make. We recognise that children have a natural affinity to music and encourage dance and movement frequently to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

To enhance our children's learning, we regularly engage with outside agencies who provide specialist music, movement, imaginative dance, yoga and football sessions. For example, a dance teacher works in school every Friday with each class given the chance to take part in these dance and movement sessions. We often invite parents along to watch and/or join in with their children too.

Children are involved in a range of visual, tactile and sensory experiences through which we encourage them to communicate what they see, think and feel. We develop the children's competence in using and exploring a variety of materials, tools, techniques and skills.

We use construction toys and everyday materials to develop our children's individual and collaborative creativity. We use careful observations and open-ended questions to challenge children's thinking, encouraging them to adapt their work and learn by trial and error, whilst not being afraid to make mistakes and learn from them.