

What does Design and Technology look like in Early Years?

At Cobbs Brow Primary School our EYFS department follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (March 2021) and use the Birth to Five Matters Non-statutory guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage developed by the Early Years Coalition. This guidance supports practitioners to implement the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in a pedagogically sound, principled and evidence-based way. Practitioners can then use their professional judgement based on their knowledge of the children in their setting and their wider context including family, community and the setting itself to construct an appropriate curriculum.

Design and technology is included within 'Expressive Arts and Design' aspect of 'Creating with Materials' as well as the 'Physical Development' aspect of 'Moving and Handling'. Children in Nursery realise that tools can be used for a purpose and are also expected to use various construction materials, and they should begin to construct, stacking blocks vertically and horizontally, making enclosures and creating spaces. Children should also join construction pieces together to build and balance. In Reception, children should continue to construct with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources. They will begin to use simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately. Children select appropriate resources and adapt their work where necessary. They are able to select tools and techniques needed to shape and join the materials they are using. At the end of the year children will safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

At the end of Reception children are assessed against 'Creating with Materials' Early Learning Goal and children at the expected level of development will be able to:

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function;
- Share their creations, explaining the process they have used;
- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

Children are also assessed against the 'Gross Motor Control' Early Learning Goals and children at the expected level of development will be able to:

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others;
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing;
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.