Learning Art in EYFS

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to help subject leaders to understand how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects.

This document demonstrates which statements from the 2020 Development Matters are prerequisite skills for Art within the national curriculum. The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters age ranges for Three and Four-Year-Olds and Reception to match the programme of study for Art.

The most relevant statements for Art are taken from the following areas of learning:

Expressive Arts and Design

DT			
Year-Olds E	Personal, Social and Emotional Development		 Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen or one which is suggested to them.
	Physical Developme	nt •	 Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.
			Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan.
			 Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.
	Expressive Arts and Design		• Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
			• Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.
			 Join different materials and explore different textures.
			 Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
			 Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
			 Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.
			 Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc.
	fear etc. • Explore colour ar	Explore colour and colour-mixing.	
Reception	Physical Developme	Development Development Overlopment Overl	 Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors
	Expressive Arts and	Design •	 Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
			Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas
			and developing their ability to represent them.
		•	 Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises. Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc. Explore colour and colour-mixing. Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, sa and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scisson. Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.
ELG	Expressive Arts	Creating	Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques.
	and Design	_	
			Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
			 Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

clay, glue, colour, colour names, paintbrush, chalk, rubber, materials, line, shape, tools, feelings, etc.