

# AccessArt EYFS Exemplar Plan

[What Are the Aims of the EYFS Exemplar Plan?](#)

[Using & Developing the Plan in your School](#)

[Areas of Focus](#)



### **Aims of the AccessArt EYFS Exemplar Plan**

Over 3000 schools use our resources to help support teaching art in primary school.

This powerpoint shares examples of how AccessArt resources can help support providers of EYFS education.

Our aim is to help nurture an exploratory attitude towards creativity which children can take with them as they grow.



### **The aims of our approach:**

To encourage children and staff to explore creativity in a holistic way

To encourage an open-ended exploration of materials, ideas and techniques.

To encourage children and staff to value the journey over or alongside outcome

To encourage children to explore notions of “identity”, gain the confidence to share their exploration and their thoughts, and to learn to appreciate and respect that others might have different experiences of their own identity.

To encourage children to work together as a team, as well as value their ability to work alone.

To demonstrate that drawing, mark-making, making etc are physical as well as mental activities in which the mind and the body are involved.

To demonstrate that every individual has the power to create and make, to manipulate and contribute to the world, for the enjoyment of their own self and for others.



### **A Word about Progression...**

The following resources are presented in areas of **Areas of Focus** rather than ordered by age or term.

These resources do NOT provide a tick list of skills to be explored and achieved (this is not something AccessArt believes in). Instead we believe children should be introduced to a wide a variety of materials and experiences, which are revisited over time. Confidence in handling materials, exploring techniques and realising ideas builds over time and through repeated experience. There is great benefit in **revisiting, repeating, expanding and thinking around the project ideas**, as the experience children bring to each activity changes over time.

It is through **working closely with individual children that teachers will really understand the types of materials, techniques and ideas that each child responds to**, and how they might be helped to explore those areas further.

The examples included are designed to demonstrate to providers of EYFS how an **open-ended, child-led approach can help build skills and enjoyment in children** so that by the time they enter primary education they have a mindset which will help them become confident, creative learners ready for a more thorough exploration of drawing, making, sketchbooks, painting, printmaking, photography, design and craft.



## Main Curriculum Pages



**The AccessArt EYFS Exemplar Plan for Art has the following Areas of Focus:**

### Exploring the Natural World

Being inspired by the world around us

### Understanding Identity and Exploring Relationships

Feeling connected

### Exploring the Power of Creativity

Making Art



## Exploring the Natural World

The resources in this section focus upon how we can facilitate an exploration of the natural world which stimulates creative thinking.

[Primal Painting](#)

[Feely Drawings \(or Drawing by Touch\)](#)

[To Colour](#)

[Dressing Up As A Fossil](#)



## [Primal Painting](#)



The [Primal Painting](#) resource shares a session in which children explore nature as a source of natural pigments. Plants are squashed and ground to produce texture and colour with which to make art.

- Enables an active exploration of the natural world, and to making art.
- Encourages children to look at the world as a place containing elements they can manipulate & transform
- Develops hand eye coordination and dexterity skills
- Opportunity to explore early mark making
- Encourages discovery, conversation and sharing
- Creates a holistic approach to making art

### **Adapt:**

The session originally took place with 5 and 6 year old children. To adapt to EYFS, you may like to swap some of the tools used and work under closer supervision, for example swap a small hammer for a small handheld stone. Obviously care should be taken to ensure children don't put the plants in their mouths.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



[“Feely Drawings” or Drawing by Touch – a 5 minute drawing exercise](#)



The [“Feely Drawings”](#) resource explores making drawings in response to objects using the sense of touch.

It separates drawing into 2 activities: exploring an object through our sense and then making a drawing of the information we can remember.

- Encourages children to explore objects through senses other than sight
- Promotes curiosity, thinking, recall & creative decision making
- Develops hand eye coordination
- Explores mark making as a way to share information
- Develops early visual literacy skills (see \* below)

**Adapt:**

Vary the objects which children “sense” by feeling them to suit the age and ability of the child.

\*After the drawings are made, develop the activity into a game whereby children can discuss which drawings were inspired by which objects.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources





[To Colour...](#)



The [To Colour](#) resource shares a session which took place originally with children with Autism. However the gentle and playful exploration of colour, how it makes us feel and how it feeds into other senses is perfect for EYFS.

- Encourages playful exploration
- Helps children explore sensory perception
- Promotes teachers & children to create their own learning pathways
- Explores colour as a medium beyond paint

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources

## [Dressing Up As Fossils](#)



The "[Dressing Up As Fossils](#)" resource encourages children to observe objects, and then feel enabled to make a creative response to that object. A surprise at the end (using the artwork as a dress up!) makes it a fun and dynamic project!

- Develops observation skills
- Develops mark making, drawing and painting skills
- Demonstrates how different art forms can feed into each other
- Promotes group work

### **Adapt:**

The session was originally run with reception/Yr1/Yr2. Consider enabling the children to work in small groups on their pieces of fabric, or even working a parent / helper.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## **Understanding Identity and Exploring Relationships**

Resources to help children explore who they are, and how they might connect to those around them.

[Making Finger Puppets](#)

[Self Portraiture Photography](#)



## [Making Finger Puppets](#)



The "[Making Finger Puppets](#)" resource was originally created as part of a wellbeing project in collaboration with Mind\*.

This resource shares simple ways to make finger puppets which children can make their own. The finished puppets can be used to share stories, act out dialogue and explore drama.

*\*You do not need to sign up to the Get Arty project to use this resource*

- Develops dexterity and making skills
- Explores using drawing, colouring and collage
- Promotes conversations about character and identity
- Promotes ideas about story, narrative and dialogue
- Enables children to work alone and then contribute their work to shared experience

### **Adapt:**

The resource shares 3 ways to make finger puppets, from a simple template which staff can cut out, to a more complex Modroc version. An easy resource to adapt to different ages and abilities.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Self Portraiture Photography](#)



The ["Self Portrait Photography"](#) resource is an exciting way to explore self portraits.

Children have the opportunity to use props and personal belongings to help explore their sense of self.

Photographs are then developed through drawing and collage.

- Helps children explore their sense of self, likes & dislikes, personality etc
- Explores and connects drama, photography, drawing, collage...
- Promotes sharing and conversation
- Encourages children to recognize and appreciate the things we have in common and the things which make us special

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## **Exploring the Power of Creativity**

How do we make Art? And how does it make us feel?

[Drawing Like a Caveman](#)

[Drawing Spirals](#)

[Drawing Spiral Snails](#)

[Ducklings](#)

[Autumn Resist Wax Leaves](#)

[Nursery Night Time Collage](#)

[Plastacine Printmaking](#)

[Painting the Savanna](#)

[Marbling](#)

[Minibeast Art Work](#)

[Wildflower Meadows](#)

[Painting with Plastacine](#)

[Drawing by Torchlight](#)

[Newspaper Heads](#)

[Finger Palette Portraits](#)

[Murals in Schools](#)



## [Drawing Like a Caveman](#)



The ["Drawing Like a Caveman"](#) resource explores how children can make a variety of marks using their hands and charcoal.

Children find this activity empowering and nurtures a sense of discovery.

- Exploration of mark making as it relates to the body
- Develops hand eye coordination
- Explores right and left hand drawing
- Links drawing to history (cave painting)

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Drawing Spirals](#)



The "[Drawing Spirals](#)" resource is a simple but effective way of encouraging children to understand that drawing can involve their whole body.

Chunky drawing tools help children make drawings which, though simple, require concentration and express personality.

- Exploration of drawing as a physical activity
- Develops hand eye coordination
- Explores drawing and speed
- Links drawing to wellbeing

### **Adapt:**

Use any chunky drawing material for this activity. Whilst encouraging children to draw deliberately in making the spiral, don't judge results on their being "neat". All children will make different types of spirals, just like children have different handwriting. Make sure this activity is about encouraging what their spiral will be, not a right or wrong result. You might like to explore making spirals to music.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources





## [Drawing Spiral Snails](#)



The ["Drawing Spiral Snails"](#) resource build on from the drawing spiral resource on the last slide.

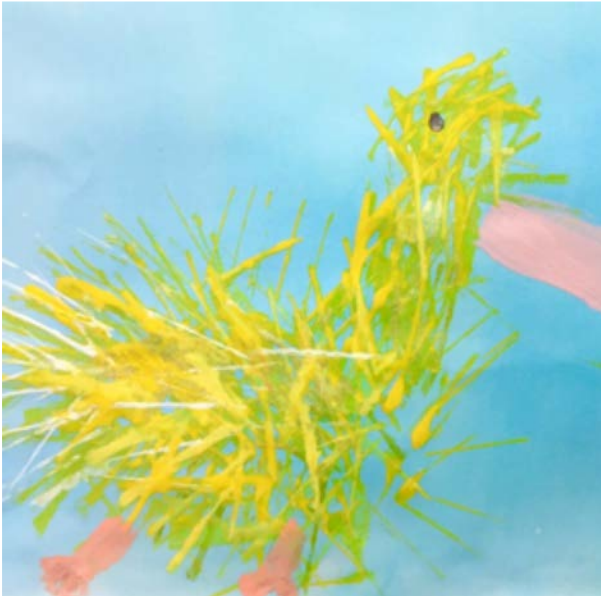
In this exploration, children use chalk or soft pastel working on white or black paper to explore colour mixing and mark making.

- Explores drawing and colour mixing as a tactile activity
- Develops understanding of colour mixing on page
- Explores mark making and pattern

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## Ducklings



The [“Ducklings”](#) resource shares a way to introduce children to printmaking and enables them to explore how we might create a feeling of “form” and texture on the page.

- Promotes close looking
- Explores printmaking as a tool for mark making
- Explores ideas about “shape” and how we can make “shapes”

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Wax Resist Autumn Leaves](#)



Introduce children to the magic of creating invisible wax lines which are then made to appear on the page with watercolour in the ["Wax Resist Autumn Leaves"](#).

Use the leaves made by individuals towards a larger shared collage project.

- Promotes mark making skills
- Promotes close looking followed by experimentation
- Enables an exploration of colour
- Promotes individual and group ways of working

### **Adapt:**

You may wish to miss out the first drawing exercise and instead move straight on to using wax. Work on large sheets of sugar paper so children can use chunky wax crayons with control. Brusho can be messy so you might like to replace with watered down post paint.

Adults can help cut leaves out though older or more able EYFS children will enjoy the cutting practice.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



### [Nursery Night Time Collage](#)



Explore wax resist and collage with the [“Nursery Night Time Collage”](#) resource.

- Combines mark making, painting, colour and collage
- Develops fine motor skills
- Promotes conversations about place, night / day, dark / light

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Plastacine Printmaking](#)



The [“Plastacine Printmaking”](#) resource shares a very simple way to make prints.

Use this method to help children explore the natural world and create their own marks and patterns. The finished prints can be used as collage elements in other artwork.

- Explores printmaking
- Develops understanding of negative and positive prints

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Painting the Savannah](#)



In the ["Painting the Savannah"](#) children have the opportunity to work collaboratively to make backgrounds for their artwork, and then work individually to create animals to collage onto the paper.

Lots of exciting stages keep children's attention and contribute to an understanding as to how we can build imagery.

- Promotes a range of skills including mono printing, drawing, colour mixing, painting, stencils, collage and scale.
- Promotes collaborative working
- Develops fine motor skills through active and physical sessions

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## Marbling



Create patterned paper with the [“Marbling”](#) resource.

Children love the element of surprise when marbling. Work in very small groups.

- Explores reactions of pigments on water
- Inspires experimentation and promotes curiosity
- Creates sheets which can stand alone or be used for other projects

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Minibeast Artwork](#)



The [“Minibeast Artwork”](#) resource enables children to undertake a fun exploration of minibeasts, inspired by the natural world and into a fantasy one!

- Explores colour, shape and narrative
- Develops fine motor skills
- Promotes close looking followed by developing individual creative response

### **Adapt:**

Children will enjoy painting the sheets but adults might want to help cut shapes (with children enjoying sorting the shapes). Swap acrylic paint for poster paint.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources





## [Wildflower Meadow](#)



Make shared artwork with the [“Wildflower Meadow”](#) resource. Children learn how to make large colour washes, print with card, and draw and collage wildlife to create beautiful atmospheric imagery.

- Explores different ways to use paint
- Explores printmaking
- Develops drawing, cutting and collage skills
- Promotes individual and collaborative working

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



### [Painting with Plastacine](#)



A great way to explore colour mixing and develop fine motor skills – the [“Painting with Plastacine”](#) resource enables children to create small images in “relief”.

- Explores an innovative approach to create 3d painting
- Explores ideas about foreground and background
- Explores colour mixing
- Develops fine motor skills

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Drawing by Torchlight](#)



The [“Drawing by Torchlight”](#) resource develops skills in using charcoal and exploring light and dark.

Using children’s toys and torchlight makes the drawing process exciting and relevant.

- Develops looking skills
- Encourages children to make links between drawing, play and narrative
- Explores light and dark and mark making

**Adapt:**

Use small boxes on their side to create mini “theatres” and shine the torch on the contents.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Newspaper Heads](#)



The [“Newspaper Heads”](#) resource shows how to make 3d painted head of whatever you wish! Link it to projects about animals, portraiture, fantasy or drama.

- Explores colour and mark making
- Develops 3d experience
- Links to drama and storytelling

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Finger Palette Portraits](#)



The "[Finger Palette Portrait](#)" resource explores making a drawing of your partner using charcoal.

- Encourages looking
- Explores how to share what you see through drawing
- Demonstrates to children that different medium and techniques have different outcomes
- Enables individuals to work alone but as part of a team

### **Adapt:**

Charcoal is used in this resource. Whilst charcoal is a great (messy!!) medium for children, you might also want to explore the same process using poster paint. Encourage children to keep looking at their partner – it's very easy for children to forget and to only look at their artwork!

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



## [Murals in Schools](#)



The [“Murals in Schools”](#) resource shares how an artist worked with children to create a mural for a wall.

The process described can be used to make less permanent artwork, and enables an exploration of colour, shape and narrative.

- Explores colour, shape and narrative
- Develops fine motor skills
- Promotes individual and collaborative working

**Adapt:**

Use small boxes on their side to create mini “theatres” and shine the torch on the contents.

[Join AccessArt](#) for full access to over 850 resources



### **Accessing the Resources**

The AccessArt website currently contains over 850 resources, many of which can be adapted to suit EYFS. Our collection of resources are growing all the time and we will add more to this powerpoint so do check back at [www.accessart.org.uk](http://www.accessart.org.uk) to see the latest version.

Many of the resources are free to access, others are behind the membership wall.

AccessArt is a UK charity (1105049) which aims to inspire and enable high quality visual arts teaching and learning. We receive no core or revenue funding, instead we rely on income from membership to continue to develop our activities. AccessArt has over 8000 subscribers and is trusted by schools across the country to help develop their teaching and learning.

[Membership \(and access to all resources\), starts at just £42 per year.](#)

