

Transient Art

Why is supporting children's creativity so important?

Giving children opportunities to be creative, will give them a sense of control over their surroundings and a great feeling of satisfaction in their achievements, and are, therefore, really important in these unsettled times. There are also more obvious benefits such as supporting children's thinking skills and encouraging them to solve problems, express their ideas and work through their plans and actions.

What is Transient Art?

Transient Art is the creative experience of placing open ended resources together on a surface. It allows children to explore shape, space, pattern, positioning, colour, texture and overlapping. The term 'transient' means that nothing is fixed down with glue or tape, but can be moved and placed differently as children's creative ideas evolve. 'Masterpieces' can be photographed and then displayed. The bonus here, is that all of the resources can be reused and if the resources are open ended enough, the children can explore a multitude of creative possibilities.

What will I need?

This is down to you – the joy is – there are no rules! Perhaps a good way of starting is asking children to help you gather interesting materials and objects from the garden and house. Try to ensure that there are lots of different shapes, sizes and textures e.g.

Natural materials – leaves, seeds, sticks, driftwood, pebbles, petals, shells, pine cones

Metals – nuts bolts, washers, screws

Recycled materials – corks, bottle tops, cardboard tubes, buttons

Bits and bobs – cotton reels, string, hair bobbles

You will also need to find something on which you are going to place the materials on. A plain table cloth or towel would be good. Try using contrasting backgrounds.

Mirrors and a desk lamp provide an ideal opportunity to look closely at texture and detail as well as prompting talk about reflection and shadows.

Expressing Creative ideas

Talk about the different ways that you can place the materials onto the background. Try not to pigeon hole children into making a recognisable thing but instead encourage them to explore the material's colours, textures, overlapping and layering. Some (usually older ones who tend to be more restrained than younger children) will want to create something familiar whereas others will be more interested exploring how the materials can be placed together. As well as the creative possibilities this activity is great for exploring mathematical concepts such as shape and pattern, as well as providing a great opportunity for language development. Positional words such as on and under and next to are good alongside words to describe texture, shape and colour.

Have fun!! Do please post your creations on Tapestry – we would love to see them.

