

An Cheardlann Chruthaitheach Creative workshop



Suíomh/Location

- Where possible, position the creative workshop near a sink and tap so that spillages can be cleared more easily.
- In some settings locate the creative area near the graphics workshop so that children access resources from both areas with ease.
- The creative workshop often includes the woodwork area. Is so, situate the workshop away from quiet areas, such as the book area, so that the woodwork activities are not disruptive.
- The creative area should always be situated away from carpeted areas and have a floor surface that is easy to mop. Provide storage space for resources nearby.

Pleanáil/Planning

Plan for the children to have:

- ♦ Daily access to the creative workshop
- ♦ Opportunities to use the area in a wide variety of ways
- ♦ Open-ended creative opportunities with an emphasis on 'process' not 'product'
- ♦ Time to develop and refine skills and investigate diverse media independently and in their own way
- ♦ Access to diverse stimuli to encourage a creative response– playing a variety of music, at varying volumes on different days & observing the children's reactions.
- ♦ The use of the creative workshop monitored by staff for observations & evaluations to inform future planning, e.g. if the children have been gluing items to paper independently one day, provide a wider variety of collage materials & bonding materials the following session.

Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

The adult role:

- Ensure that the creative workshop & resources are well maintained and safe
- Plan to spend time in the creative area, observing children and where appropriate, enhancing and extending their learning
- Provide resources and activities that encourage children to express their creativity
- Ask open-ended questions and make comments that encourage children to talk about their personal intentions, describing what they are trying to do and to enter into dialogue about their creations
- Value children's creative explorations & help them to value the creations of others
- Introduce, use & reinforce language which is specific to learning in this area.

Aiseanna/Resources

Basic creative resources should include:

- Paper & card in assorted shapes, colours & sizes
- Powder paints, ready-mixed paints & block paints
- An easel
- Pots, palettes & mixing trays
- Assorted brushes
- Collage materials- fabric, sequins, beads, ribbons, wool, shells, & other natural and reclaimed materials
- Small tools- scissors, a hole punch & a stapler
- Assorted objects for printing- balls, batik blocks, construction equipment, sponges, wheels, and other natural & everyday objects
- Modelling items- boxes, tubes, empty food containers, corks and natural objects
- Adhesives—paste, Sellotape, masking tape, PVA glue
- Writing materials

The woodwork bench should include:

- Variety of tools- hammers, screwdrivers, saws, drills, sandpaper
- Magnet to pick up nails & screws

The creative workshop is an area children can consolidate skills through experimenting with a wide variety of tools and media.

The following items should be available on occasions for specific activities:

- ♦ Marbles ♦ Rollers ♦ nailbrushes ♦ straws ♦ toothbrushes ♦ icing sugar ♦ candles ♦ marbling inks ♦ shaving foam ♦ cold water dyes ♦ leaves



Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/ experiences and activities

The creative workshop should be available every session. Naiscoil staff should plan experiences that extend children's knowledge and understanding, skills & attitudes

- Encourage children to work on a very small scale
- Give children opportunities to mix paints independently
- Ensure staff understand the importance of 'process' rather than 'product' & the need for messy activities so that they can articulate this to parents
- Encourage parents to dress children in practical clothing for messy activities
- Set up a display of models, paintings, collages and other creations detailing children's comments on their learning.



Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of learning in the creative workshop

péint uigeach greamaigh sífin rollóir scuab measc bog cruá geal dorcha fliuch tirim greamaitheach samháltán mionsamhail gliú taos cré colláis griangraf
paint textile stick straw roller brush mix soft hard bright dark wet dry heavy light sticky model miniature glue paste clay collage photograph

