



Arts Education

Arts Education is presented under three subject headings: [visual arts](#), [drama](#) and [music](#) .

Arts education enables the child to express ideas, feelings and experiences in language, gesture and movement. Together with music and the visual arts, the use of drama in the classroom encourages the child to express ideas that are creative and explorative. The Arts Education curriculum explores pathways to learning that involve reflection, imagination and sensitivity. Learning through the arts facilitates the use of a range of intelligences.

Arts Education: Visual arts

Overview

The Visual arts curriculum consists of six strands. Each strand represents a medium for developing the child's expressive abilities. These strands are:

- Drawing
- Paint and colour
- Print
- Clay
- Construction
- Fabric and fibre.

Through these six strands, children explore the following seven visual elements when making, looking at, and responding to art: line, shape, form, colour and tone, pattern and rhythm, texture and spatial organisation. The Visual arts curriculum emphasises three starting points for the child's art activities:

- the child's own experience
- the child's imagination
- the child's observations.

In the Visual arts curriculum, the child is encouraged to look at and respond to a wide variety of artworks. It is through talking about these artworks that the child develops sensitivity to the visual elements, and begins to use them purposefully in his/her own art-making. Of all the visual arts media, drawing has primary importance in the Visual arts curriculum, and it is through drawing that children's development in art is most evident. In making art, the process of making is as valuable as the final product.

Current Status

National in-service for the Visual arts Curriculum took place during the 2000/2001 school year. Implementation of the curriculum by teachers in primary schools began in the 2001/2002 school year. The advisory service provided by the Primary Professional Development Service (PPDS) continues to support teachers and principals in their implementation work.