

# Exploring scribbling and drawing



## Why creative drawing matters

**Drawing inspired by still life objects, like a bunch of flowers, is more than just an artistic activity.**

The process nurtures children's observational skills, creativity, and early maths development by encouraging them to notice shapes, patterns, and proportions.

Through drawing they develop the following skills:

**Observation.** Children learn to closely observe the details in objects, enhancing their ability to identify shapes and spatial relationships.

**Creativity.** Free-drawing allows them to express their unique perspectives, fostering creativity and imagination.

**Mathematical Thinking.** As they draw, children naturally engage with concepts like symmetry, size, and proportion, linking art with foundational maths skills.

## LINKS TO THE EYLF

### OUTCOME 1.2

Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.

### OUTCOME 4.1

Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.

### OUTCOME 5.3

Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.

### OUTCOME 5.4

Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.

# Why we don't focus on colouring-in

**Colouring-in activities, where children fill in pre-drawn outlines, can limit their creativity and self-expression.**

While colouring-in can help with fine motor skills, it often leads to a focus on staying within the lines rather than exploring their own ideas and creativity.

When children engage in open-ended activities like free-drawing or painting, they make decisions about what to create and how to do it. This encourages critical thinking and problem-solving, which are essential skills in both early childhood education and later academic success.

Every child sees the world differently, and open-ended art activities allow them to express these unique perspectives. Instead of focusing on replicating someone else's design, children are free to explore their ideas, which is more meaningful and developmentally appropriate.

In early childhood, the process of creating is far more valuable than the final product. Open-ended art activities help children learn that it's okay to make mistakes and that there's no "right" way to create art, fostering resilience and a love for learning.

**Let's encourage creativity beyond the lines!**



## In practice: Encouraging drawing



**Free-drawing activities support the development of fine motor skills, critical observation, and early mathematical understanding, aligning with the EYLF's focus on identity and learning dispositions**

Here are some practical ideas that you can incorporate into your daily routine:

Provide a simple still life setup, like a bunch of flowers, and encourage children to draw what they see.

Discuss the shapes, sizes, and patterns they notice in the flowers, integrating vocabulary that supports their understanding of maths concepts.

Celebrate children's creativity and the different ways they represent the same objects.

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