

# Art Activities

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –  
Check that you are happy with any weblinks or use of the internet.*

## Activity 1 – Drawing and painting Create a self portrait

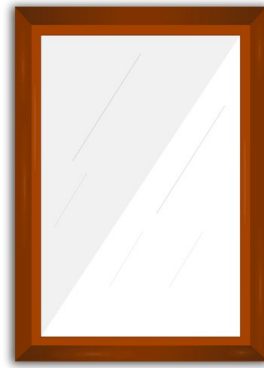
### What to do

- Spend some time exploring what you look like in the mirror. Discuss the different features that you can see, including more subtle features such as eyelids, nostril curves etc.
- Set up paper and any art materials to hand. You may need to help your child draw a face outline large enough to fill the page and position features such as eyes, nose and mouth.
- Work together to look at features in the mirror and to try drawing them
- Plan to present the picture as a gift or part of a greetings card.

### What you need

A mirror

Paper and art materials



### Extension

Send the hard copy or photograph and send to the intended recipient.  
Try different media, such as paint, pencils and crayons.  
Sit face to face and draw each other at the same time – this can be quite funny.

### Questions to ask

What shape is your face? Are you sure it is a circle?  
Where is your nose? Is it really in the middle...have another look?  
How wide is your mouth? What shape does it make?  
How can we get colours which match your hair, eyes and skin?

## Activity 2 – Drawing and painting

### Draw your home

#### What to do

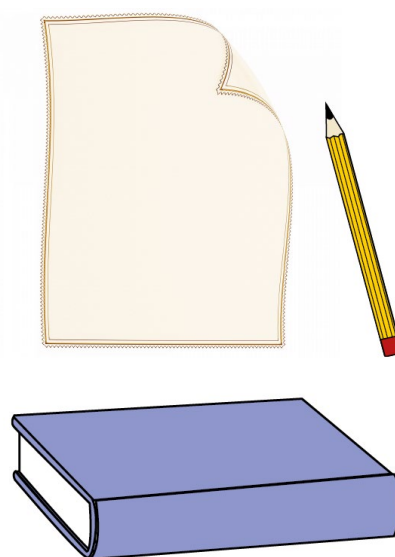
- Ask your child to shut their eyes and imagine what their home looks like from the front
- Ask them to draw what they imagined – describe the building they have drawn – is it really like their house?
- Go outside if you can and compare the picture with your home (or use a photo or Google Street View). Compare window numbers, door position and roof shape. What other features can you see?
- Either outside or with a photo, work together to sketch the front of your home. You can add lots of details and colour.

#### What you need

Paper

Pencils and/or pens

A clipboard or hard back book to lean on



#### Extension

Draw a different house front which you can see from your window

View a famous building (or family home) which you cannot physically visit using <https://www.instantstreetview.com/> (Try Buckingham Palace for example). Draw this building

#### Questions to ask

Can you shut your eyes and imagine what our house looks like if you stand outside?  
How many windows do we have/doors/chimneys?  
What shape is our roof?  
What other details can you see?  
How big are the windows compared to the door?

## Activity 3 – Art using natural and found objects

### Create an Andy Goldsworthy style picture

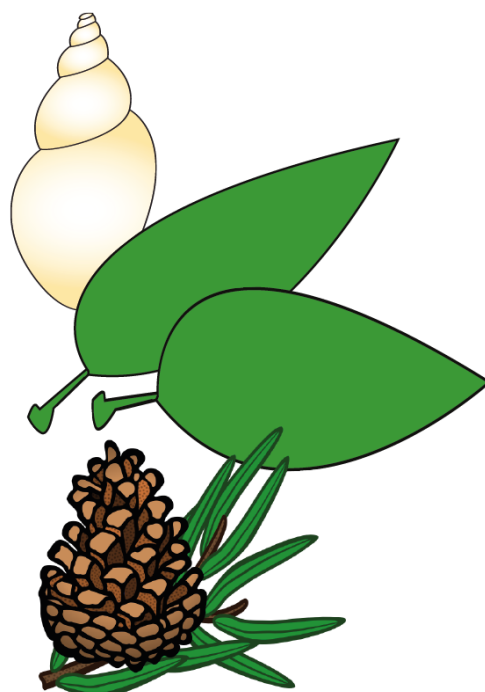
#### What to do

- Collect the items on a walk or over several walks
- Look at some of the images of art by or inspired by Andy Goldsworthy
- Create a picture together by arranging the items – this can be inside or outside – on the ground, paper or on a table etc. Resist fixing with glue or tape.
- Photograph it and explain that you can reuse the things to make as many different pictures as you wish.
- Send images the pictures as gifts or greetings.

#### What you need

Images of Andy Goldsworthy art and inspired art – see below

Natural objects such as twigs, leaves, pinecones, petals, pebbles, shells, feathers



#### Extension

Introduce the challenge to create a specified effect. Can you make a calm/happy/spooky picture?

Create a gallery of different pictures – involve the whole household. This is accessible at any level.

#### Questions to ask

What can we find which would make a good picture?

What colours/shapes/textures can you see?

What sort of pattern can you make?

Who are you making your picture for?

How does your picture make you feel?

#### Andy Goldsworthy Art

[https://www.google.com/search?q=andy+goldsworthy&tbm=isch&safe=strict&chips=q:andy+goldsworthy,g\\_1:artwork:u nw-QVNJ Ls%3D&rlz=1C1CHBF enGB878GB878&safe=strict&hl=en&ved=2ahUKewjauJCzt8zoAhUU xoKHcDuD9sQ4lYoAHoE CAEQFQ&biw=1519&bih=722](https://www.google.com/search?q=andy+goldsworthy&tbm=isch&safe=strict&chips=q:andy+goldsworthy,g_1:artwork:u nw-QVNJ Ls%3D&rlz=1C1CHBF enGB878GB878&safe=strict&hl=en&ved=2ahUKewjauJCzt8zoAhUU xoKHcDuD9sQ4lYoAHoE CAEQFQ&biw=1519&bih=722)

## Activity 4 – Collage

### Cutting and sticking from magazines

#### What to do

- Remind your child how to use scissors safely and how to stick what they have cut out onto the paper.
- Look at some of the pages – discuss the pictures and colours. Talk about the different pictures that they could make by cutting and sticking.
- Remind them that they can try different arrangements and combinations before they stick their shapes in place.
- Let their imaginations run wild. They may want to create an abstract pattern or a picture. They may cut out shapes maintaining the image they are cutting from, e.g. *cutting out a car*, or they may cut random shapes across images to make new ones. There are no wrong ways to do this!

#### What you need

Magazines, catalogues or similar  
Child-friendly scissor and paper glue  
Paper to stick pictures on



#### Extension

Provide an outline for children to fill with their cuttings by drawing one on paper in thick pen, e.g. *a bed with a patchwork blanket – the cuttings will make the pattern*, or *a butterfly with open wings – the cuttings will create the wing design*, etc.  
Challenge your child to use smaller pieces to make numbers, letters or shapes.

#### Questions to ask

How do we use scissors safely?  
How much glue do we need to stick shapes onto paper?  
What colours/patterns/shapes can you see?  
What are you thinking your picture will look like?  
What colours do you need?

## Activity 5 – Mark making

### Creating leaf, stone, wall and bark rubbings

#### What to do

- Choose a bumpy surface and talk about the texture. Encourage your child to run their fingertips over it and describe what they feel.
- Demonstrate how to create a rubbing by holding the paper in place on the bumpy surface and rubbing firmly over it with the side of a crayon. Discuss what happens and explore how a light touch doesn't show on the paper and pressing too hard creates a harsh, uneven effect.
- Explore other potential surfaces to create a rubbing from, allowing your child to explore and experiment.
- Explore different surfaces of the same object, e.g. *sides of a leaf*.

#### What you need

Fat crayons with sides exposed (peel off paper wrappers)

Outside textures to rub – leaves, brick/stone wall, trees and any other bumpy surfaces

Paper



#### Extension

Try to guess which surfaces created which patterns.

Try different colours, experimenting with layering one rubbing over another.

Cut out some of the rubbings into different shapes to make a picture.

#### Questions to ask

How could we describe the texture? How does it feel?

What pattern do you think it will make?

Shall we test it?

What pattern have we got?

What is the best way to hold the crayon?

What happens if we swap colours?

Do you think the wall will make a pattern?

What will happen if we try the other side?



## Activity 6 – Mark making

### Take your pencil for a walk

#### What to do

- Show your child how to take a pencil for a walk, i.e. put the pencil to the paper and begin to draw a randomly moving continuous line, without taking the pencil off the paper until it is covered with lines, swirls and shapes. Explain that you can do this with smooth, curved lines, straight, jagged lines or a mixture of both.
- Allow your child to experiment with the different patterns they can make – they will struggle to keep contact with the paper at first.
- Try colouring the shapes made by the walk. This is most effective with felt-tip pens.
- Try creating tiny or large collaborative patterns.

#### What you need

A pencil

Plain paper

Pens, pencils, paint for adding colour



#### Extension

Dry taking a different thing for a walk, e.g. felt-tip, crayon, chalk, metallic pen on dark paper, etc.

The finished patterns can be cut out to make bookmarks, frames or decorations.

#### Questions to ask

How do we hold a pencil?

Can you draw a pattern without taking your pencil off the paper?

What patterns have you made?

How could we colour them?

What colours could we use?