



## **Draft Principles for Engaging with the Arts in Early Learning and Care**

The Draft Principles are presented as individual statements with features of each statement listed beneath. They start with the child then extend outward to elements which support the facilitation of the arts in promoting play and creativity in early learning and care.

### **Children are creative**

- They are born with unique qualities and abilities which drive creative and imaginative expression.
- They reveal aspects of their unique nature, talents and prior learning through acts of creating.

### **Children's creative expression must be nurtured**

- In a prepared emotionally-safe environment.
- Where they can build, and are supported to build, trusting relationships, with other children, with participating and supportive adults and with themselves.
- Where risk-taking and exploration are supported.
- Where all children have access to all art forms, and with an understanding that each form offers unique opportunities for expression and creativity.

### **Children develop as creative thinkers**

- Within their body, mind, feelings and spirit.
- Through regular access to space indoors and out, in which to explore and imagine.
- With frequency of time and opportunity to play and create in the arts.
- Supported by the provision of open-ended, aesthetic, found and naturally occurring materials which can be used and interpreted in multiple ways.
- Nurtured by playful engagement with the environment and with others.

### **Creativity is a process**

- Which can achieve the highest moments of learning and understanding.
- Which is felt and can be experienced as a state of flow.
- Which offers experiences for holistic learning and development.
- Which is active, hands on and sensorial.
- Which encourages a sense of self, agency, wonder and awe.
- Which may see the creation of products or artefacts, but not always.

### **Essential features of arts in early learning and care are exploring, creating, imagining and communicating**

- Focusing on broad development goals and an emergent approach, led by individual children's learning pace.
- Supporting children's developing sense of self and group identity.
- Facilitating children in making connections between their inner lives and their outer worlds.
- Inviting symbolic play and the use of symbols in expression and representation.
- Enabling individual artistic expression through a variety of media.
- Including individual, collaborative and collective sharing and making.