

Design and Technology at Northwick Manor Primary School 2021

As parents what can you do to encourage your child to think in a 'designerly' way?

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

As a parent you are probably used to taking your child on nature walks to encourage an understanding of the natural world. Recent research shows that far fewer adults take children on a tour of the designed and made world and allow them opportunities to marvel at human ingenuity. So perhaps next time you are in the park, after you've fed the ducks, you could look at the way the play equipment has been constructed.

A Ticket to Ride

Take a simple object such as e.g. toy car and encourage your child to consider:

How does the object work?

What parts have been used to make the object?

What materials have been used and why?

Who has it been designed for?

What is its purpose?

Extend this technique to other less familiar objects as they become more confident.

Knowing Me Knowing You

Articulating likes and dislikes is another important skill in design technology. Being able to describe a product's advantages and disadvantages really helps with the design process. How can we eliminate the negatives and accentuate the positives?

Talking about food, textiles and other products in this way will also help build subject specific vocabulary.

Also talk to your child about things that you feel have been well or poorly designed such as kitchen equipment, cars, tools, hand-bags.

Ergonomics is concerned with the 'fit' between the people and the technological tools that they use. A computer mouse is an example here, it has been designed to fit the hand for ease of use. Developing an awareness in children of what shapes things are and why is another interesting area for discussion.

What's New Pussycat?

Initiate conversations about new products, this might be new toys or food types. Products such as Dairy-Lea Dunkers were designed with a particular target audience in mind, why? What new products are out there? Another fascinating discussion could come from the new Dyson Blade Hand drier. Aren't they great?



What is Design Technology?

Design and Technology is a subject on the National Curriculum. During Design and Technology (D&T) lessons children are taught to design and make their own products and investigate existing products. Children have the opportunity to learn a range of skills and techniques and work with a variety of materials including textiles, food, technical components and modelling materials.

The children are also encouraged to design with a particular end-user in mind and then evaluate their own work and the work of others.

DT is an exciting subject: design encourages the children to be creative thinkers and innovators and the technology aspect allows the children to apply science and computing knowledge to the project.

What sort of things do we do in Design Technology?

Year Group	Topics	Description
Reception	Fruit kebabs	This Food Technology project is linked to healthy eating and all about themselves. It gives the children the opportunity to work and try a variety of fruits.
	Sewing with Binka	This topic introduces the children to a simple sewing technique where they will also have the chance to add embellishments.
	Rocket Making	This project allows the children the opportunity to work with a range of different materials including paper and card.

Year 1	Playgrounds	To design and make a piece of playground equipment using paper, card, tubes, glue, sellotape and string.
	Pizza and box	Design and make a pizza. Explore packaging and then design a label for a pre-made box for their pizza.
	Wheels and axles	To investigate and then make a wheeled vehicle to transport a small toy.
Year 2	Wind-up toys	To investigate winding mechanisms work and make their own toy with a winding mechanism.
	Smoothies	Investigate and evaluate a range of shop made smoothies and then as a group create their own fruit smoothie.
	Beanies	Design a soft toy using felt. Children sew two pieces of felt together, fill with rice and then add features.
Year 3	Precious pouches	To design and make a pouch that fits the precious object using fabrics and sewing techniques.
	Sandwiches	The children make their own sandwiches using a varied range of breads and fillings.
	Film-making	Investigate the work of film makers and then develop a stop-go animation using a range of media.
Year 4	Pop –Up Books	Cardboard is used to produce pop-up books.
	Night lights	Recycled material are combined with simple electric components to make a nightlight complete with a switch.
	Vegetable samosas	Blending spices together to create an authentic Indian vegetable samosa.
Year 5	Moving Toys	The toys in this project move with a little help from a cam. Cardboard and wood are the key components.
	Bridges	The children use cardboard to produce a bridge.
	Biscuits	Each child has the opportunity to design, make and decorate a batch of biscuits.
Year 6	Door stops	A textile project where children design and make their own door stop.
	Bread	Identify the components to make a yeasted bread and then make their own.
	Crumble —moving eyes Hats	Programming a micro-processor to control a moving part in a work of art.