

One Roll of Paper, Two Activities

By [Rachel Thompson](#)

In this post AccessArt team member [Rachel Thompson](#) demonstrates two activities using one large roll of paper: A Friendship Map and a Figurative Zentangle.



This post is part of a 'table top' collection of activities created during 'lockdown' and are designed to be simple in terms of delivery and require easy to find art materials. You can see the full collection on Rachel's contributor page [here](#).

A large roll of paper is something I consider a staple art material for having at home. I've been using (and re using)

them for a few years now and always find them a great material for setting something open ended and exploratory. When faced with an expanse of white paper stretching along the floor or stuck to the wall the imagination really can go wild!

The materials for these two activities are very straightforward:

- A large roll of paper
- Pens, pencils, crayons, paints - a large ish selection to choose from is always great

Activity One: A Friendship Map

At a time when seeing our friends and loved ones isn't possible, it's nice to find ways to stay connected at least in thought. Using our roll of paper we made a friendship map of our local area, drawing our street and neighbouring streets, and illustrating it with the houses of our friends and neighbours as well as our own.

We began with spreading the paper out across the floor.

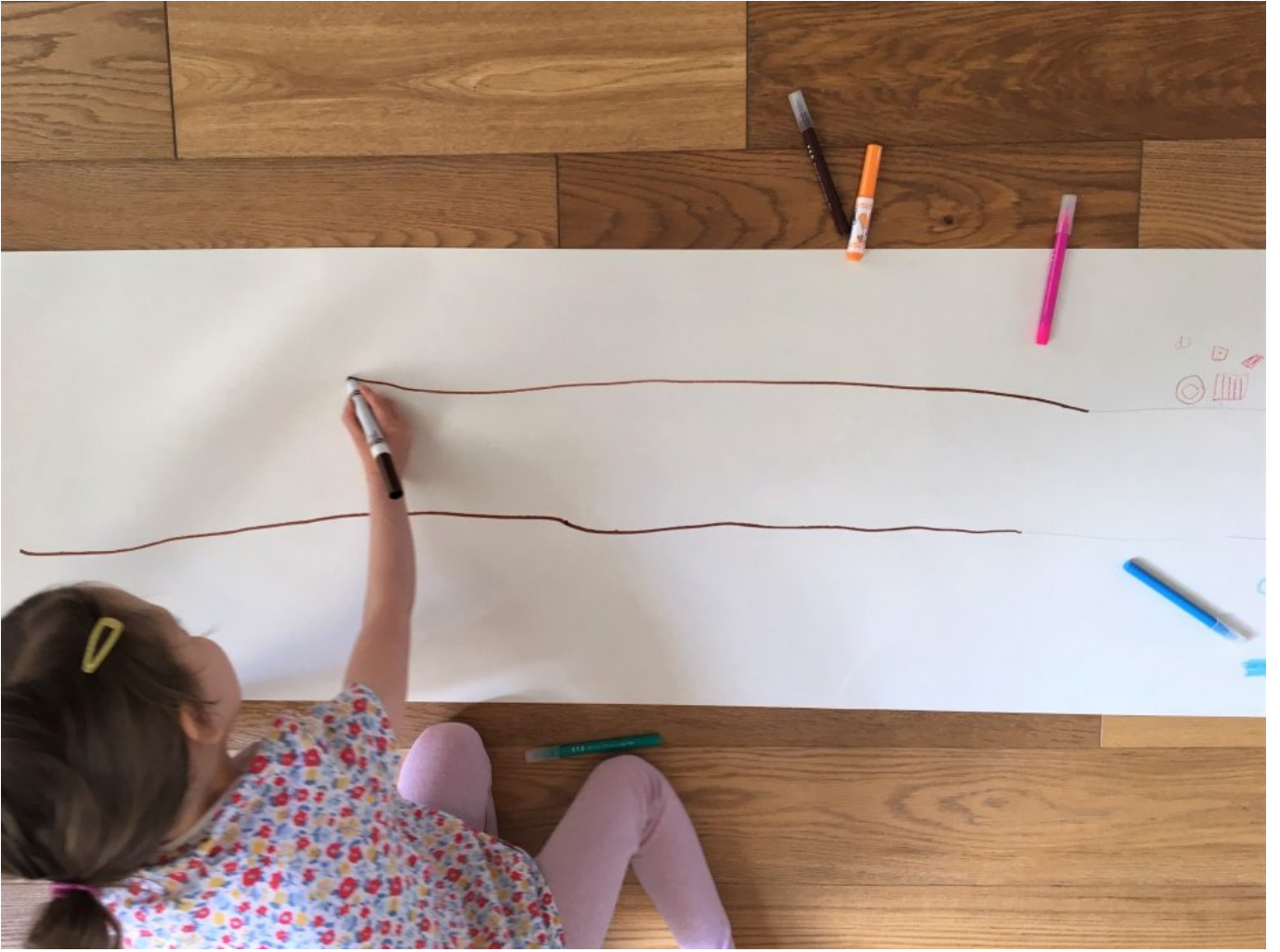


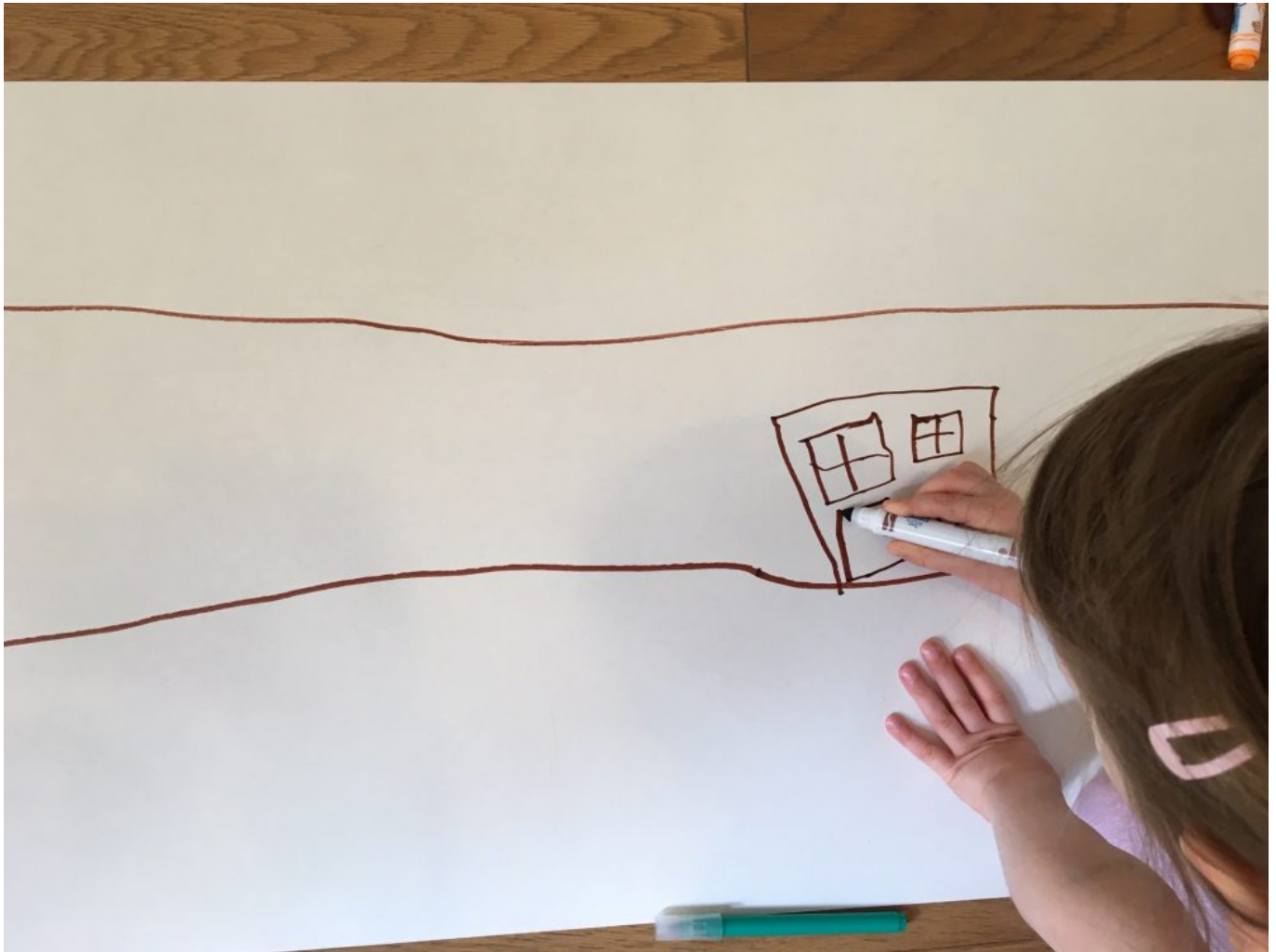
This was followed by scattering a range of drawing materials onto the paper so as to create choice and variety. This included coloured pencils, felt tip pens, chalk and wax crayons. There's really no limit here - you could use different papers to make collage a feature of it too. Ask your child to choose. Getting to know art materials and what they do is the best way to instill creative confidence at an early age.



Next, we spent a few moments talking about our friends in the area and what positive things we think of when we are reminded of them.

We then marked out a simple linear road onto which we would draw the houses.





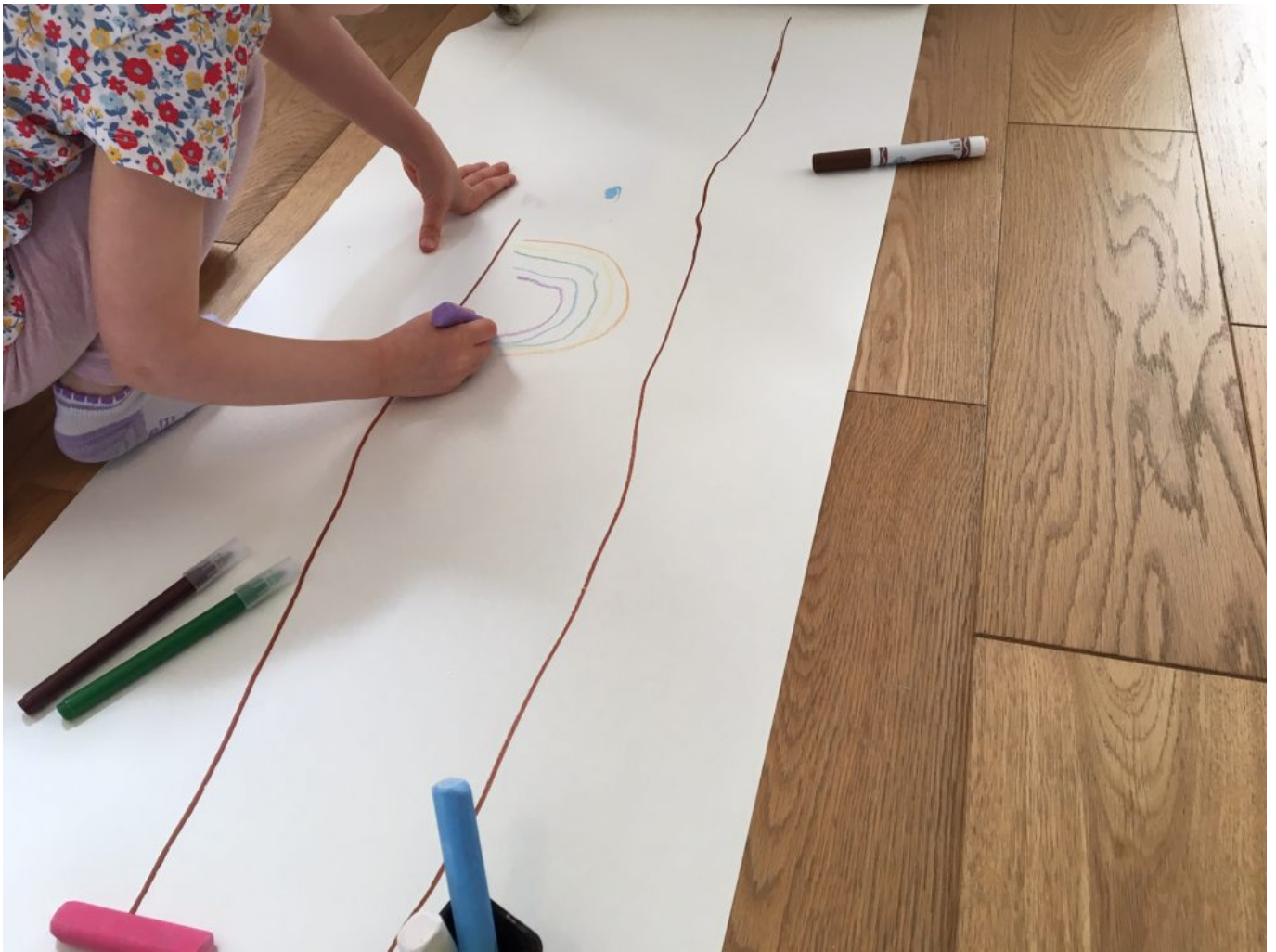
We then started adding houses. I began by drawing our own houses first as a starter, and then stood back to let it evolve naturally!

Judging proximity and location isn't exactly easy for five year olds, so our map inevitably ended up a little.... 'fluid' - but this doesn't matter. The point is to let the child explore the paper and navigate around it how they like.

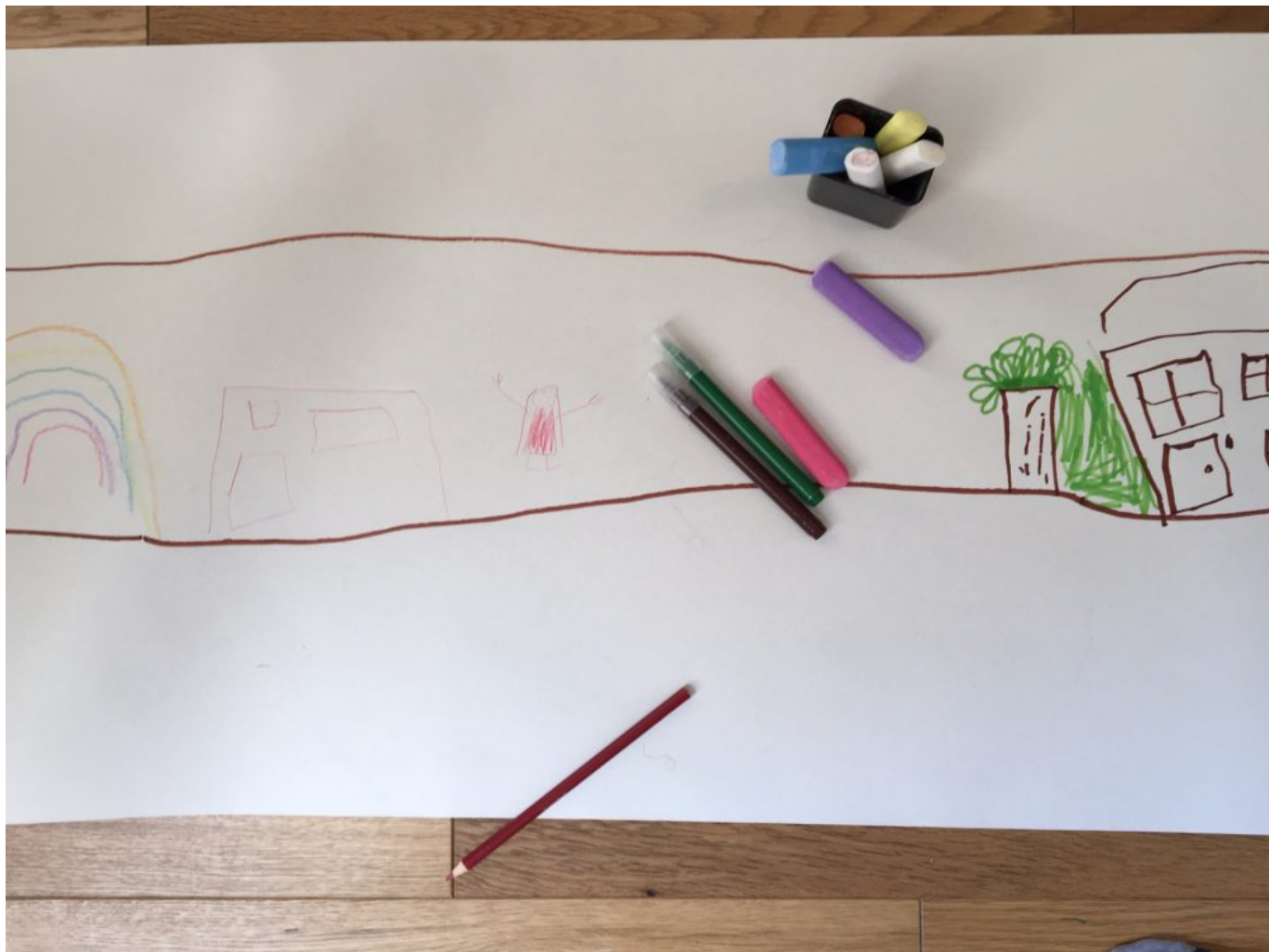
Some possible questions to ask to keep the focus:

- Does (name of friend or neighbour) have a tree or flowers outside their house?
- What colour door do they have?
- What toys or special games do you think of when you think of (friend or neighbour)?
- What colours remind you of (friend or neighbour)?

- What else might there be in the street apart from houses?



Rainbows have become synonymous with the times, and one was added onto our map as this is what my daughter is reminded of when she thinks of her cousins.





Asking what houses are on the next street? Can you draw around the corner too?

Depending on the age of your child or children, a friendship map could take up a whole hour, half a day - or even longer! it could be something they dip in and out of and add to as their mood dictates. It's a positive thing to encourage a longer term project that can evolve over time. In our case, attention span was a slight barrier, as was the fact my daughter doesn't have siblings to bounce off. Nevertheless, she really enjoyed it and it was great to get our lovely new roll of paper out!

Activity Two: A Figurative Zentangle

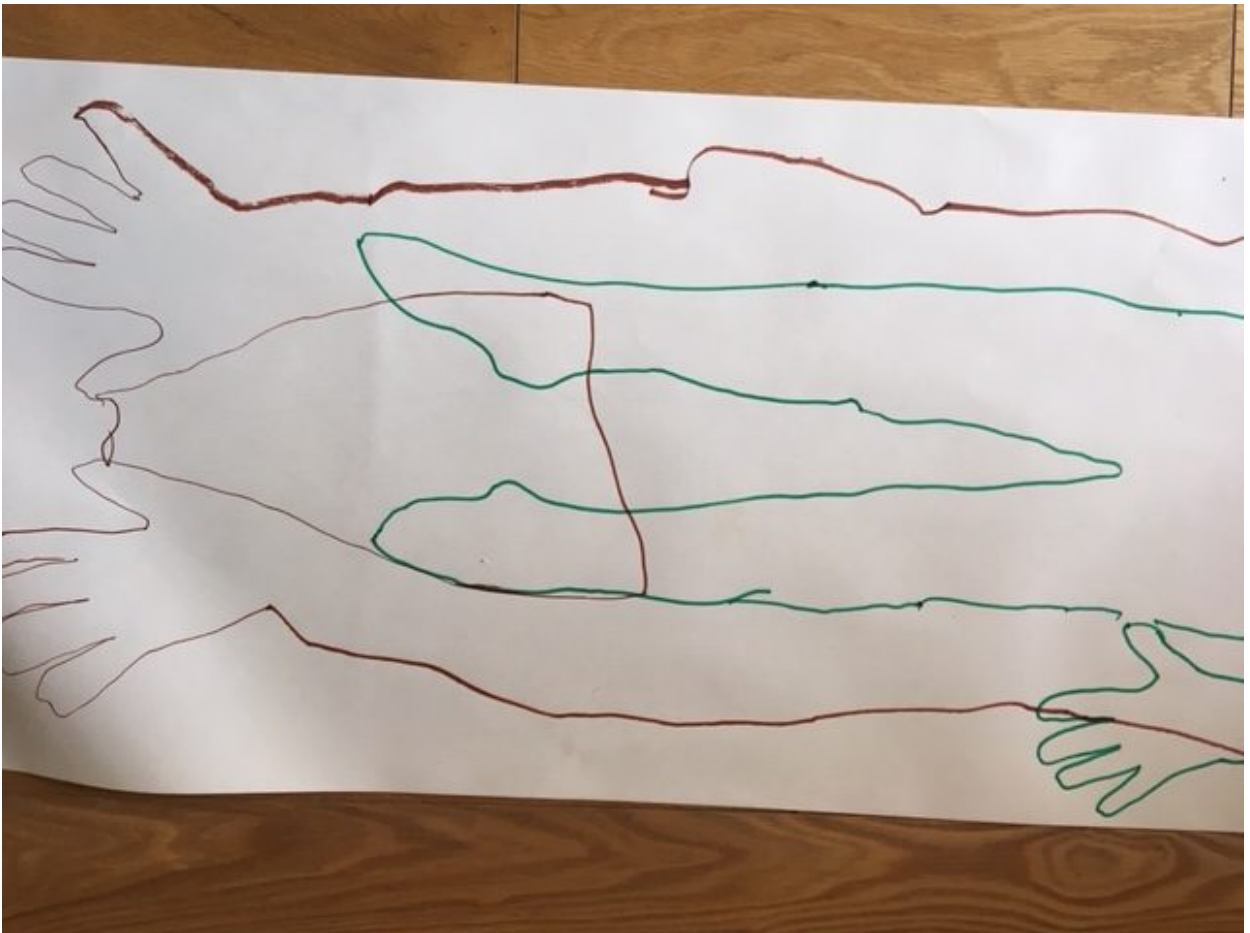
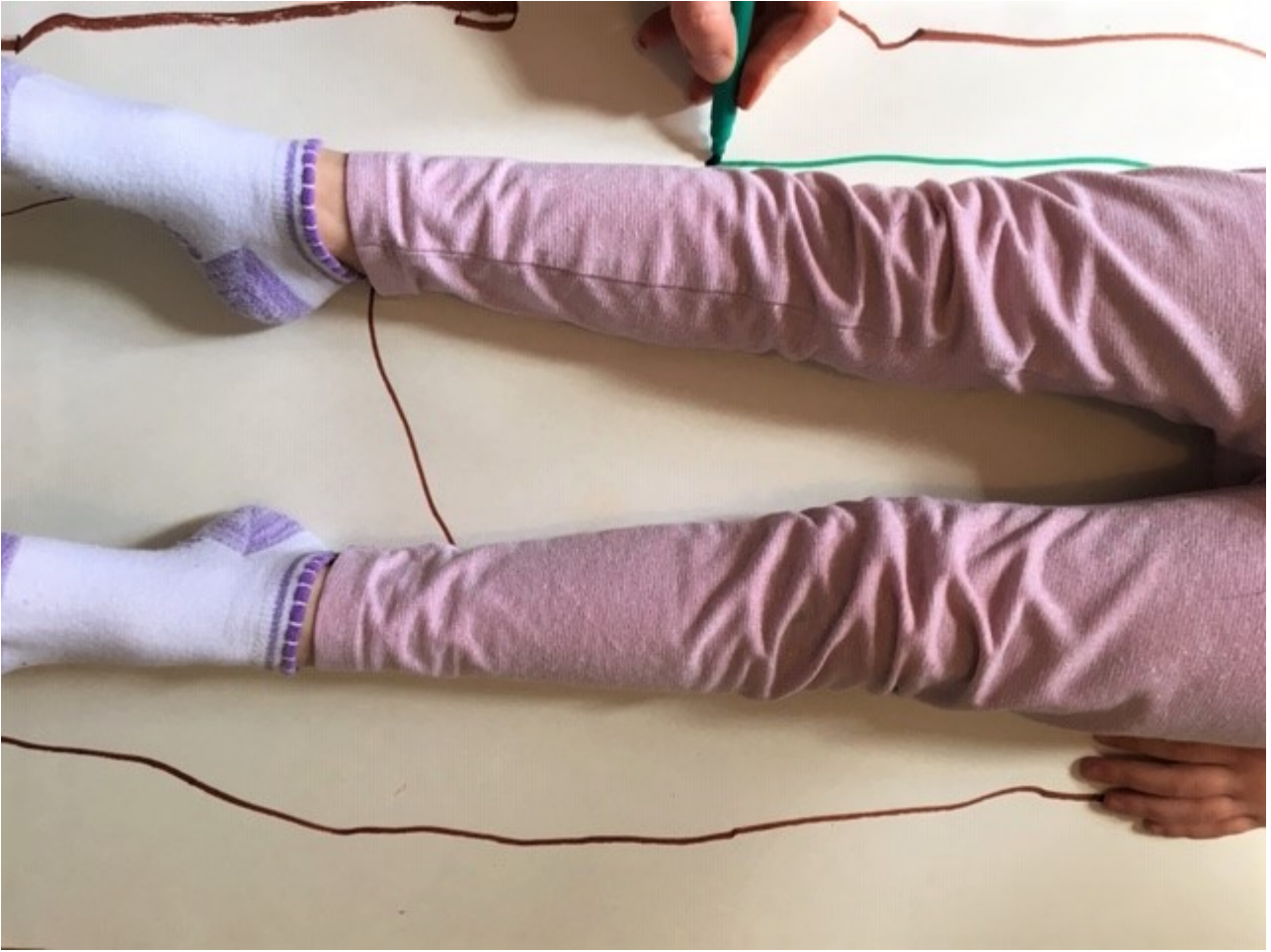
A Zentangle (a fun way to draw structured patterns) isn't explicitly what I set out to achieve with this activity- but it appeared to happen that way so we went along with it!

Something we've done several times before and is *always* a huge hit is drawing around each other on the rolled out paper. It's so entertaining for children to do this, and to draw round their parents is always pretty funny for them. The effect created from crossing outlines over and around each other is really interesting, and makes for a dynamic exercise in mark making.

We simply flipped over our friendship map and began.



Drawing round my daughter's outline here, with my own seen underneath - (not captured in a photo for obvious reasons!).



An interesting composition begins to emerge.



Experiment lying in more unusual positions.



Try drawing round just the feet.

Once we'd drawn around each other a few times each, we stood back and observed all the different lines and shapes we had created. It's a good moment to pause and reflect on the marks on the paper, and how the different colours used for each outline emphasise the composition.

It was then time to 'zoom' in on isolated shapes that had formed in and amongst the figures and begin adding blocks of colour and pattern. Rainbows are clearly on my daughter's mind at the moment as the first thing she did was to colour my hand as one!





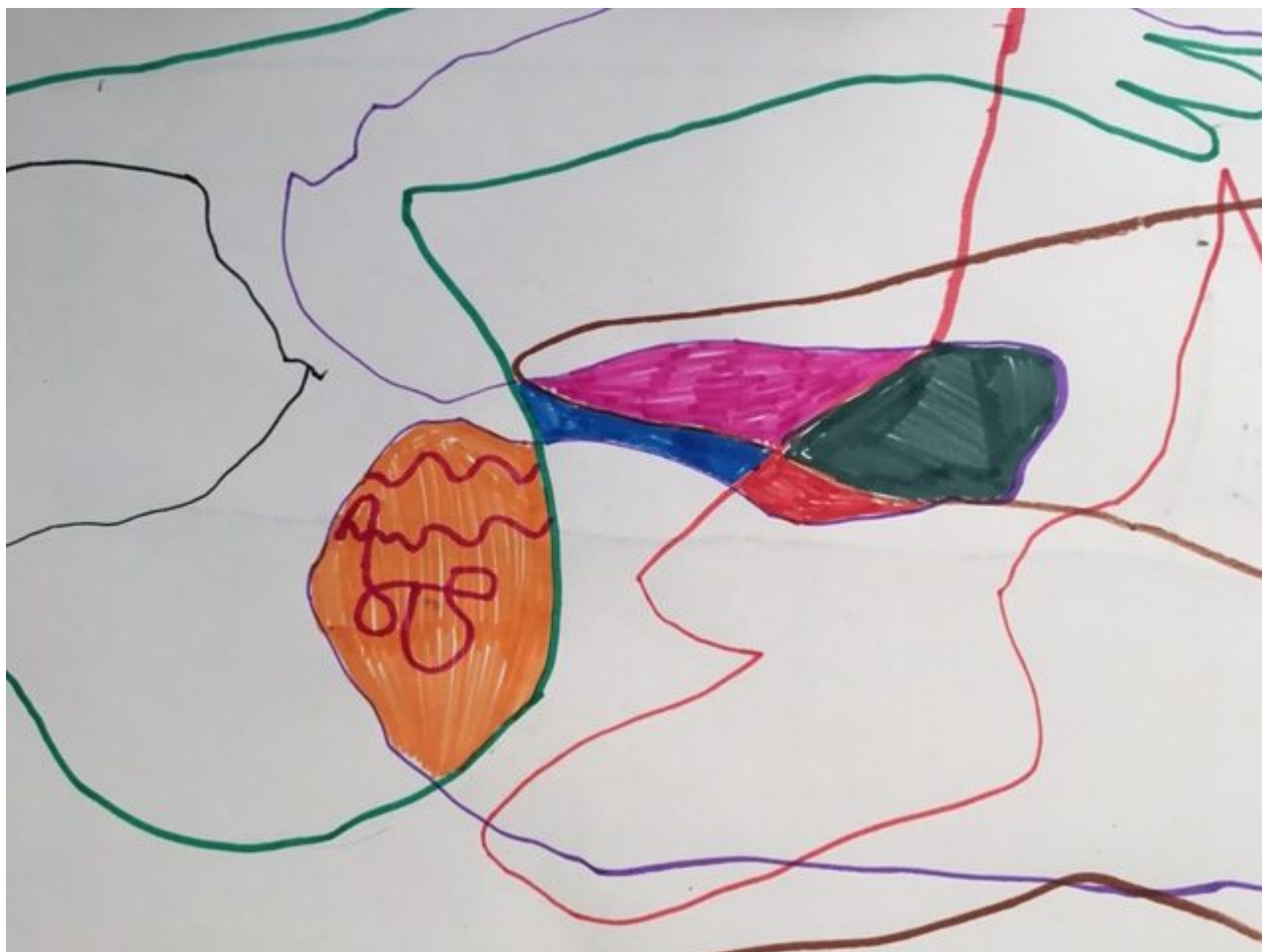


Other shapes began to emerge as we coloured them....









Similarly to the friendship map activity, your figurative zentangle can be rolled up and brought out again another day to be added to. These are two projects that can become extended over time and something older children may want to try independently. There's also scope for cutting up the finished piece and creating a whole new picture by sticking the patterns back together in different ways. Have a go - and have fun!

You can find more resources by Rachel [here](#).

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500

resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

Botanical Fairies

Get Connected! Cardboard Robots with Movable Joints

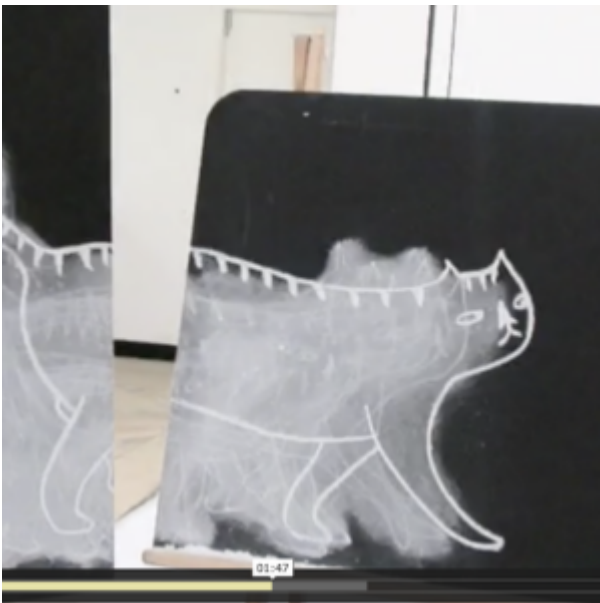
You May Also Like...

Pathway: Making Animated Drawings



[This is featured in the 'Making Animated Drawings' pathway](#)

Talking points: Making drawings move



Talking Points: paper cut puppets



Talking Points: Lauren child



Talking Points: Lotte reiniger



Draw your Granny and Grandpa or Any Relative You Love!

The Nonna Maria Drawing Challenge by Luca Damiani

Be Inspired by Flowers in a Glass Vase by Jan Davidsz de Heem

This resource looks at 'Flowers in a Glass Vase' by the Dutch painter, Jan Davidsz de Heem (1606-1684), on permanent display at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and how it might inspire your own creative responses and experimentation with colour.

Galaxy Painting

**“Missing You” – Pavement Art
Response to #SchoolclosureUK**

Drawing Large

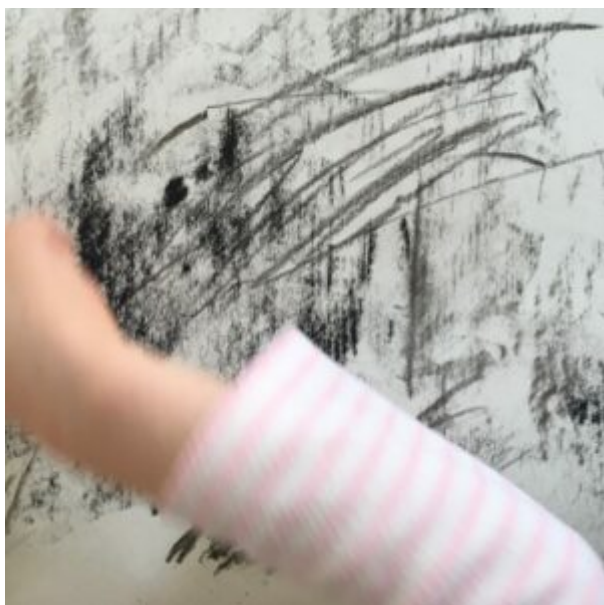
**See This Resource Used in
Schools...**





You Might Also Like...

Pathway: Gestural Drawing with Charcoal



[Featured in the 'Gestural Drawing with Charcoal Pathway'](#)

Session Recording: exploring Charcoal



Molly Hausland



The ancient art of konan



Home: The Little House on

West Street LockDown Project

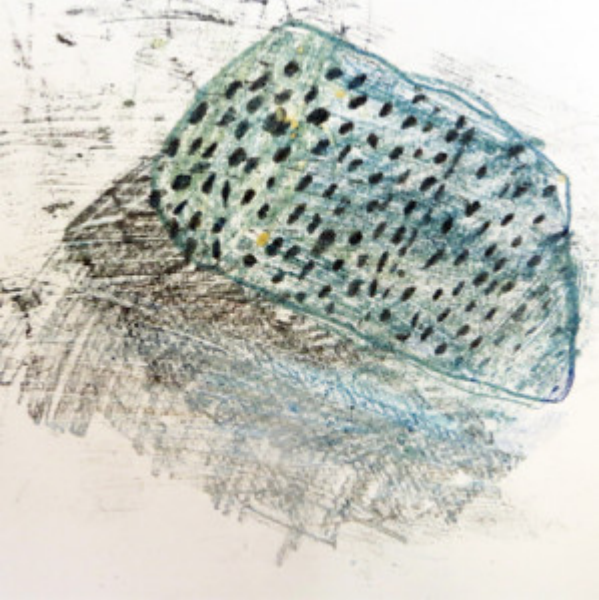
Inspired! Making at Linton Heights Junior School

Anna Campbell shares how a whole school engaged with making projects integrated across subjects in response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and how she used the project to progress pupils' making skills throughout the year groups.

Mono Printing Session with 'Change, Grow, Live'

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring the world through mono print



[This is featured in the 'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Xgaoc'o Xare



Video enabled monoprint resources

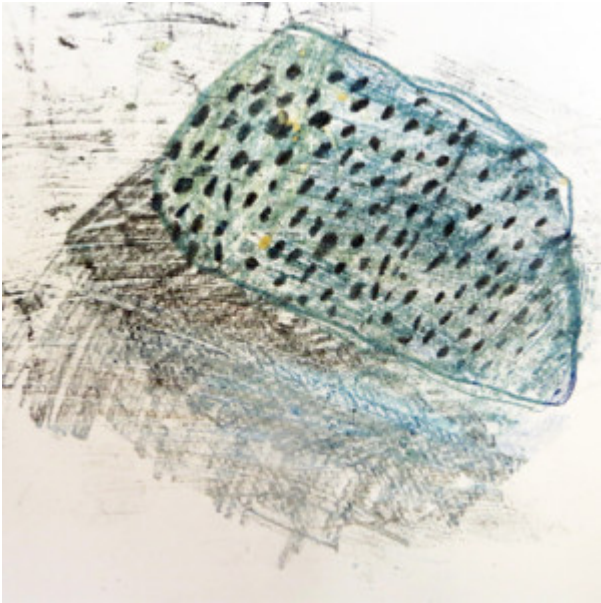


Rainbows and Waves for Grey Days

Drawing Small

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring the world through mono print



[This is featured in the 'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway](#)

Drawing Large



Printed Houses

Inspired! Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights

Year Five teacher, Kirsty Webb, shares her pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and the benefits of having a full immersion into materials and working together as a class on a shared project.

Inspire 2020: Introducing Colour and Egg Tempera on a Gesso Panel

This post shares how egg tempera was used as a medium in the Italian Renaissance and how teachers interpreted the processes involved in the teaching studio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with AccessArt and the Fitzwilliam Education Team, as part of the CPD programme for Inspire 2020

A Progression Pathway in Clay Work

From Early Years

Woodland Exploration by Caroline Wendling & Deborah Wilenski



Artists Caroline Wendling and Deborah Wilenski encourage young children in a woodland exploration using art and imagination as their discovery tools.

Nest By Paula Briggs



Paula gives children the tools to both draw and make. Children worked with hard and soft pencils, graphite, wax resist, watercolour, clay and sticks.

From Key Stage One

How to Clay Play



_This resource, commissioned by Cambridge City Council, encourages being together through making and introduces the basics of working with Scolaquip air-hardening clay.

Ofsted are Coming Tomorrow!



_Primary school teacher, Sue Brown, shares her experience of an Ofsted Deep Dive in Art and gives advice to other teachers on how they might prepare themselves.

Quick Clay Figurative Sketches By Paula Briggs



_Paula provided young children with the opportunity to explore clay as a “short term” construction and modelling material. Without being fired, the dry clay has a limited lifespan, and the sculptures will crumble, but I think it’s important to remind ourselves that even without access to a kiln, clay can still be regarded as a valuable sculptural material.

Decorative Clay Coil Pots by Sharon Gale



_This simple clay pot making resource is not the traditional way of making coil pots but it’s lots of fun and by using different paint effects, the end results can be very interesting. We worked on this project for two, two-hour sessions.

Making Plaster Reliefs By Paula Briggs



This resource describes how to create plaster reliefs using clay and foamboard moulds. It is based upon a session which took place at Bourn Primary Academy with a group of Year 5 children.

Clay Art Medals by Sharon Gale



In this three stage resource, students make a circular medal from clay depicting their own profile, look at examples of fun lettering and devise a short, fun or meaningful phrase to paint inside their portrait profile. Clay art medals are a fun way to link class topics with an art activity.

Japan: Making Sushi – Recycled Style! By Jan Miller



__Inspired by research into Japanese culture, children explored the potential and limitations of paper and recycled materials, learning through play and experimentation to make 3D forms. The outcomes of this process were used to inform work created in a second medium of clay, using kitchen equipment to shape the clay and add textures.

From Key Stage Two

Japan – Ceramics Inspire Painting and Painting Inspires Ceramics By Jan Miller



__Jan shares a Year Three class project that uses the work of a contemporary Japanese ceramicist to inspire vibrant paintings in a variety of materials. The children then used their own art to design ceramic vessels.

Clay ‘Portrait’ Miniatures by Sharon Gale



Portrait miniatures are small painted images, usually of monarchs and very wealthy, important people. Dating back to the 1520s, these tiny portraiture paintings are like medals, but with realistic colour. This two stage clay and painting resource is very versatile because essentially the miniatures are blank canvasses.

Clay Slab Work by Andy Cairns



This resource explores how to make an armature and use clay slab to build a form. Based upon the legend of “Black Shuck”, a ghostly dog that roams the coast searching for its drowned masters, this project engaged the children and resulted in charismatic sculptures, but you could equally transfer the activity to other themes.

Fruit-Inspired Clay Tiles By Rachel Dormor



[Ceramicist Rachel Dormor](#) shares a workshop idea suitable for primary or secondary aged children. Working in clay, pupils take their inspiration from drawings of fruit to make decorative clay tiles.

Fruit Pinch Pot Project By Rachel Dormor



[Ceramicist Rachel Dormor](#) shares a workshop idea suitable for primary or secondary aged children. Working in clay, pupils take their inspiration from drawings of fruit to make simple pinch pot mugs.

From Key Stage Three and Beyond

Chimera Drawings into Beautiful Terracotta Tiles By Eleanor Somerset



Sgraffito, or 'scratching' is a technique which is an excellent way to reinforce mark making with all age groups.

Drawing into leather hard red clay tiles to create designs using mark-making can be even more effective when done through a white earthenware slip to reveal the red clay beneath.

Exploring Materials: Clay and Water by Sheila Ceccarelli



Sheila asked teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class when the last time was that they had played with clay?

Arts and Minds: Manipulating Clay with Water by Sheila Ceccarelli



This post shows how to facilitate a sensory session exploring water and clay – by Sheila Ceccarelli (artist) and Yael Pilowsky Bankirer (Psychotherapist) for Arts and Minds.

Painted Clay by Melissa Pierce Murray



This post was inspired by the Japanese art of dorondongo, where mud and dirt are shaped and buffed into highly polished spheres. We made clay spheres and other simple forms in clay, and once dry, painted them with ink and acrylic.

Exploring Portraits with Eleanor Somerset



In this resource artist, Eleanor

Somerset shows how she led students in The Little Art Studio, Sheffield, to explore and discover portraiture through various media.

Introducing Sgraffito using a Coloured Clay Slip on a Terracotta Tile By Eleanor Somerset



[_](#)Further explore how to make beautiful sgraffito, or 'scratched drawings' with artist Eleanor Somerset.

From Bones and Body to Structure and Form By Melissa Pierce Murray



[_](#)Artist Melissa Pierce Murray worked with teenagers from AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class on a series of workshops which physically explored drawing and sculptural responses to form, forces and anatomy.

Simple Clay Moulds by Melissa Pierce Murray



In this post, artist Melissa Pierce Murray, shows, step-by-step, how young teenagers explored plaster casting by making simple clay 'waste moulds' and then moved on to making simple 'two piece moulds'.

Casting a Negative Space in Plaster with Sculptor Rachel Wooller



Resident artist at ArtWorks Studios, Cambridge, Rachel Wooller, introduces teenagers at AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class to the process of casting and creating negative shapes in plaster from clay positives.

Rowan: Clay Coiling Techniques to Make Penguins, Tweety Pie and a Dalek too! by Abi Moore and Sarah Nibbs



Abi, Sarah and students at Rowan Humberstone, show how they made clay birds using clay coiling techniques and with a plaster mould for the birds' bases.

Rowan: Making a Clay Bird from a Mould by Abi Moore and Sarah Nibbs



Abi and students from Rowan Humberstone, describe how they made clay birds from a plaster mould.

Modelling The Head in Clay by Melissa Pierce Murray



Artist Melissa Pierce Murray led a

series of workshops for AccessArt's Experimental Drawing Class in which the teenagers modelled a head in clay. There are five resources in this series, beginning with constructing an armature and making preparatory drawings, then studying the bone structure of the skull before moving on to features. The final post in this series looks at ways to increase the techniques and approaches used in drawing.

Design Lab: Phoebe Cummings at the V&A



Students, from the DesignLab at the V&A, London, worked with artist Phoebe Cummings over a three month period to create a site-specific, group piece, from unfired clay which was inspired by the historical 2D designs found on 19th century British tableware in the collection.

Inspired! Psyche's Resilience by The Fitzy Peters

Natalie Bailey shares the pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as well as her reflections on the transformative impact that the project had on the children and how Art can support healing and wellbeing.

Life Drawing Class: Visual Impressions

Inspired! 'The Tree' by Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School

In this post, Pamela Stewart shares the submission by Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire for Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche by Year One and Two pupils in 'Owl Class'.

It shares the pupils' Inspire journey and all that they learned in response to looking at the Renaissance painting at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.