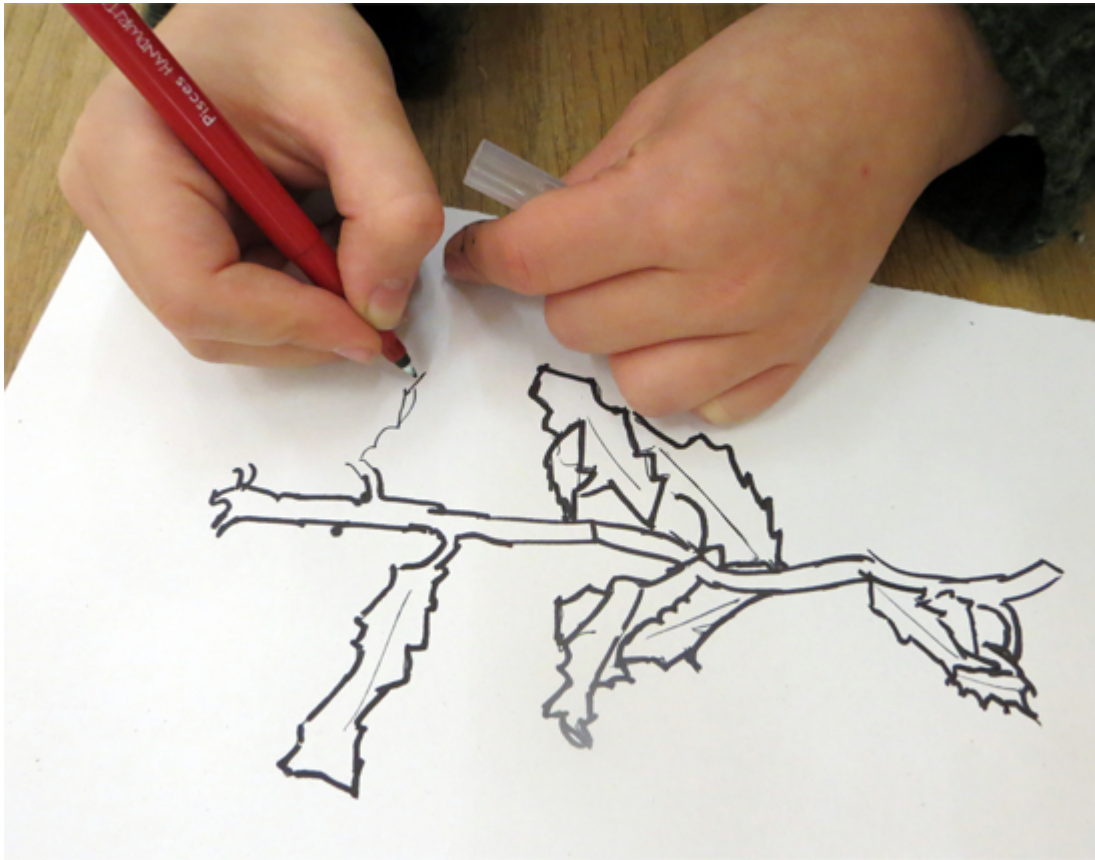


# Developing Drawing Skills in Primary Schools



AccessArt has spent many years working to develop drawing skills with primary-aged children. Our aim is to:

- **Provide an open-ended approach to drawing which is rigorous and active.**
- Encourage teachers and facilitators to **provide access to a wide range of drawing materials** from the outset.
- Encourage teachers, facilitators and students to be **open-minded** as to what “making a drawing” might mean?
- Help children develop **knowledge and understanding** around **intention, appreciation and reflection**, alongside **experimental** and more **traditional drawing skills**.

## ▪ Read more about our Approach...

We also aim to:

- Encourage teachers, schools and parents to **raise their expectations and aspirations** about what children are capable of in terms of drawing skills. We know from experience that if we provide **space** to develop skills, **access** to exciting materials and **support** in the form of the resources below, children respond very positively and the quality of their work is of a consistently high standard.
- Provide **non-specialist** teachers, facilitators, parents and carers with the **skills and confidence** needed to help facilitate drawing. You really don't have to be good at drawing to be a great drawing teacher. The resources below will help you develop your approach.
- Provide specialist teachers, facilitators, parents and carers with lots of **inspiration and ideas** to develop their teaching practice.

## Drawing Projects for Children

Find beautifully illustrated warm up drawing exercises and projects ideas in [Drawing Projects for Children by Paula Briggs](#)



## DRAWING LIKE A CAVEMAN

There are so many wonderful drawing materials to use that it can be easy to forget where drawing started. This exercise is a reminder of how simple and natural drawing can be.

### Preparation and Materials

- Willow charcoal
- A2 and A3 drawing paper

### Activity

- 1 First, make a simple drawing on the large A2 sheet of paper by tracing around your hands with the piece of charcoal. Try to imagine that your hand is a stencil, and once you've drawn around it with the charcoal, use the fingers of your other hand to smudge the charcoal. When you take your hand off the paper, you will have a negative image of it.
- 2 You can create a palette by rubbing a piece of charcoal on the A3 piece of paper until the surface becomes dark grey or black, and covered in charcoal dust. Then, run your fingers, thumbs and the side of your hand over the charcoal palette to pick up the dust, and use your fingers as a drawing tool to make a new kind of mark around the negative space hand print you made earlier.
- 3 You can experiment with how hard to press to create very dark or light marks. Try pushing the charcoal dust around the drawing until the whole page is covered and notice how the charcoal leaves an echo of the journey the fingers make.

### Facilitator's Note

This exercise can introduce children to cave drawings and charcoal; what charcoal is and how it is made. Help them imagine how prehistoric man might have reached for a burnt piece of wood from the fire to use as a mark making tool and wonder why they might have made the marks they did. It may also be interesting to talk about the universality of the handprint as a symbol.



## Drawing Projects for Children

## Warm-Up Exercises

Warm-up drawing exercises are important as they can:

- Help make a clear transition, for example between the rest of the school day and a drawing activity.
- Be used to introduce new materials.
- Set the scene.
- Open minds and prevent misconceptions.
- Plant seeds of new ideas or ways of working.
- Provide a way to enable the children to explore through a guided activity.
- Help boost confidence.
- Demonstrate intention.
- Children follow instructions.
- Provide a starting point for later reflection.
- Surprise, wake up, or settle down a jaded class.

## Exploring Drawing Materials

We advocate introducing a wide variety of drawing materials to children as early as possible. The exercises below will enable

pupils and students to explore materials, understand their potential and develop an ability to make confident and informed “drawing decisions”.