

Art To Support Learners Experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance



With cases of Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) in young people on the rise due to a variety of increasing mental health challenges and residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have curated a selection of activities that can be used to support learners facing anxiety-based challenges.

These activities have been broken down into 3 approaches: Preventative, Social and Safe Spaces.

We hope you find the selection of resources below

helpful for your setting.

Preventative Activities

Schools can implement strategies to promote wellbeing and prevent/support early signs of EBSA.

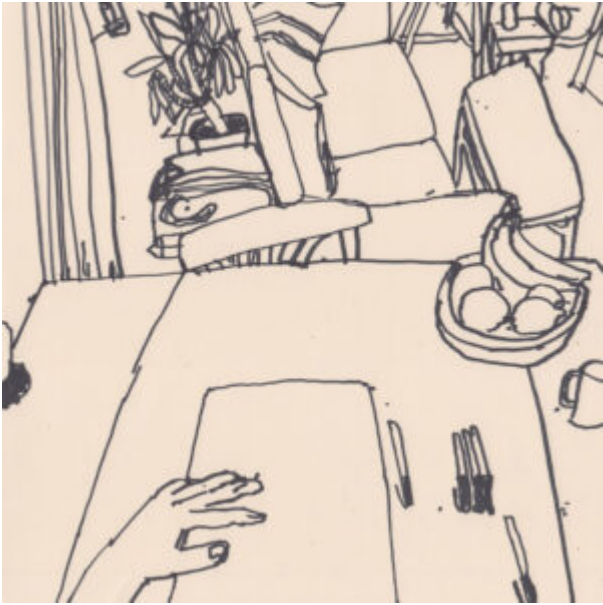
Preventative activities can be used to ground learners in the moment. By focusing attention on the 'now', learners will be enabled to tune out additional noise that they might be facing from thoughts surrounding anxiety and worry.

These exercises can be introduced at any point in the day to help learners connect their head, heart and hands.

3 Exercises to explore mark-making and sound



playing with perspective



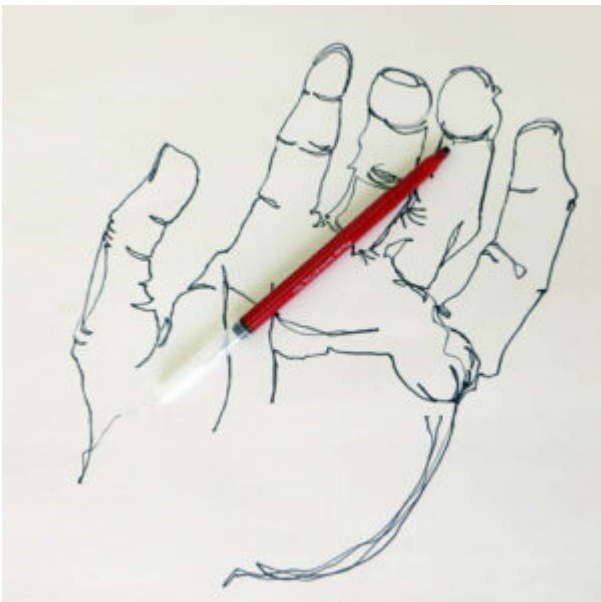
Drawing to the Slow Rhythm of a Metronome



Movement Maps



Drawing Hands



Social Activities

Social activities can help learners to feel more integrated and comfortable in their community spaces.

Having space and time within the day, for example through an art club, without the pressures of

targets or overwhelming social interactions can help learners to build resilience.

Here you will find some resources that can help learners build connections with their community, in small ways.

Adapting AccessArt: Stories and Faces



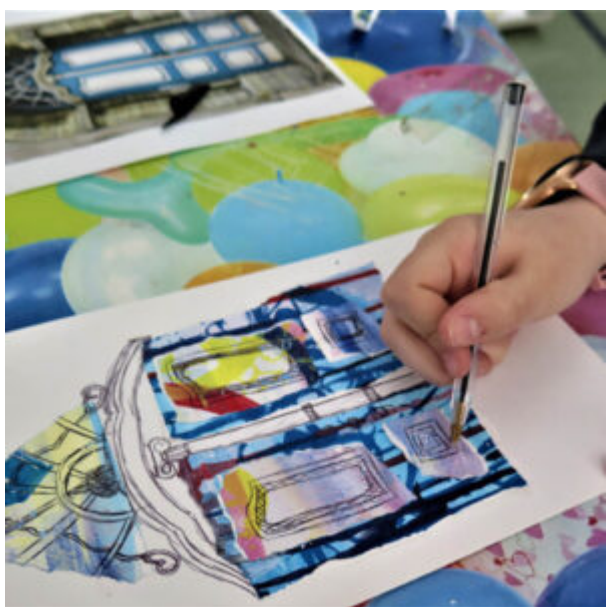
Our Creative Community



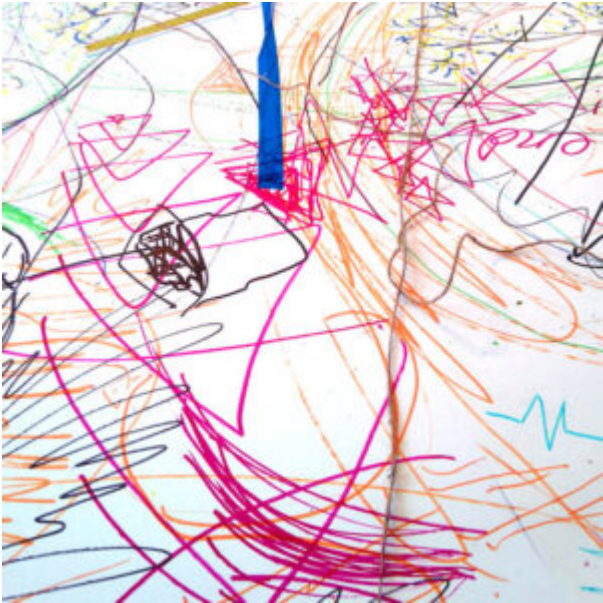
Responding to Place



Collage Streets



Graffiti Floor



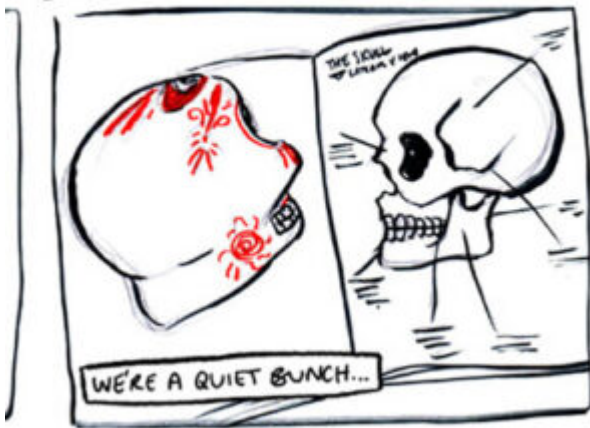
'Safe Space' Activities

For learners experiencing high levels of anxiety who feel overwhelmed and need to take themselves away from the classroom environment, it's important that they have a place to go.

Here are some activities you can use in more urgent cases to help learners unwind and keep their hands busy whilst they process their emotions.

3 panel drawing challenge

3.



worry dolls



arts and wellbeing collection

We've developed a collection of resources that use calm, creative processes to help learners stay present, connect with their surroundings, and find an inner stillness. The collection includes everything from short, five-minute activities to full hour-long sessions, perfect for moments of

quiet contemplation or deeper group connection.

[Explore our Arts and Wellbeing collection.](#)



Art Week Collections

Art Weeks provide an opportunity to step away from the usual timetable and create a real sense of “event.” Consider how you might use an Art Week to help learners with EBSA explore themes of growth, kindness, and community, away from the results-led focus of school, which can create significant anxiety for learners.

[Explore our Arts Week collection.](#)



AccessArt Treehouse

AccessArt believes that through gentle, holistic art education, we can empower children and young people to find their voice.

At [AccessArt Treehouse](#), we recognise that mainstream schooling does not suit every child or young person. Whether it is a positive, long-term decision to home educate, or a more reactive, short-term decision made out of necessity, we understand that pupils outside the formal education system are still entitled to an

excellent art education.

[Join our AccessArt Treehouse Facebook Group.](#)



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