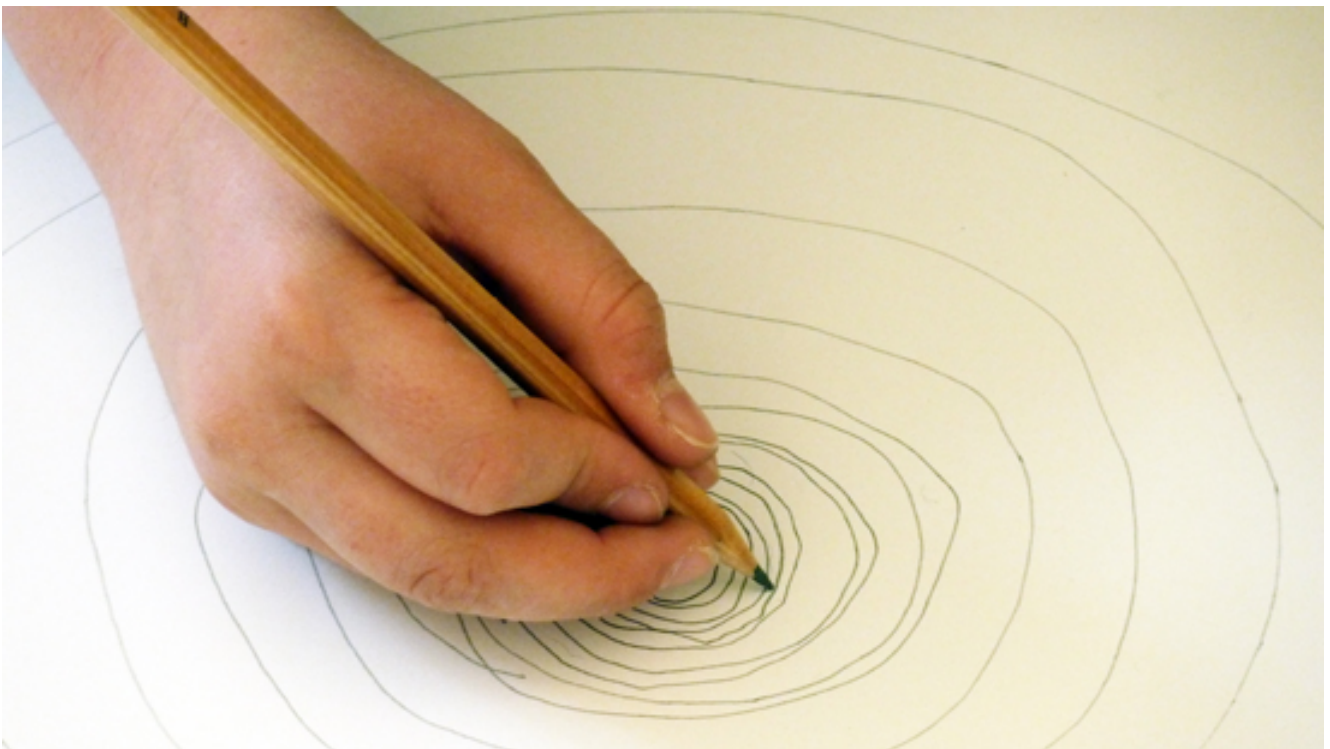


Why use Warm Up Drawing Exercises?

This resource explores why warm up drawing exercises help improve drawing outcomes and experiences.



When used appropriately, warm up drawing exercises can really affect the type of work children produce during the main part of a drawing session. Here are just some reasons why you should consider incorporating warm up exercises into a drawing project:

They help make a clear transition, for example between the rest of the school day and a creative activity.

- They can be used to introduce new materials.
- They can set the scene.
- They can open minds and challenge misconceptions.
- They can plant seeds of new ideas or ways of working.
- They provide a way to enable the children to explore through a guided activity.
- They can help boost confidence.
- They can demonstrate intention.
- They help children follow instructions.
- They can provide a starting point for later reflection.
- They provide the opportunity for repeated practice
- They can surprise, wake up, or settle down a jaded class.

Warm ups are also beneficial to the teacher or facilitator: by thinking through which warm up

will be most appropriate for your session, you will be forced to clarify and dissect the aims of your drawing session.

Most of the warm ups in our resources will take only five to ten minutes. Like any exercises they can and should be repeated regularly to get the most out of them, and like any skill, the children will quickly improve with practice.

Inventing your own Warm Ups

After a while, you will want to invent your own warm ups to serve your own needs. Consider the following:

- The outcome of the warm up should help create a bridge to the beginning of the main drawing session. Think about where you want to take the children to in the main session (i.e. is it about a material, a technique, a concept...?) and work backwards from there.
- Consider potential stumbling blocks both in the main session and in the warm up. Can you split the activities up into smaller stages to help overcome these?
- Think about where the children are at NOW in terms of experience. What new experiences or foci would you like them to have?
- Keep it simple, small, short – do not overload a warm up exercise.

Do it yourself: what is it really like to do what you're asking them to do?

- **Leave time at the end for reflection as a group to share experiences.**

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.

Drawing on Pebbles to Make

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Treasured Fossils

Using a variety of drawing media on a variety of found surfaces to create a collection of fossils. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Using Pastels to Capture Texture

Using soft pastel and graphite in an intuitive way to capture a sense of texture. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Sculptural Pots

Scraperboard Lookalikes

Woodcut

Making simple scraper board drawings with oil pastel and acrylic paint, which take on the appearance of woodcuts. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Thinking and Making

Drawing Materials Sample Cards

Drawing project to create sample drawing material cards which can be used for future reference and inspiration. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Painting on Plaster, Inspired by Vincent Van Gogh

Beautifully illustrated resource which introduces still life via an unusual combination of materials: plaster, oil pastel, graphite and linseed oil.

How does the Sculpture

Balance?

Construction-based sculpture project inspired by Ben Nicholson's paintings. Encourages children to take more risks by asking them to through their sculptures "off balance".

[Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Layered Colour Gestural Drawing

Using colour to help develop gestural drawing skills. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Colour Composition and Ben Nicholson

One hour session in which primary age children made simple coloured elements through which to explore composition. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Cardboard Sculptures

Staff at Ridgefield Primary School Cambridge explore an open-ended exploration of sculptural materials and techniques.

Drawing and Making Flowers

Using drawing to inspire making sculptural flowers.

Drawing Clouds and Mark Making

Mark-making exercise for children which encourages them to push their drawings, and their imaginations out of their safe zone. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Taking Creative Risks

Is it important to get children to take risks in their artwork?

Drawing Out of Your Comfort Zone

Exploring how we can encourage children to push their work and take a few risks...

Seasonal Drawings: Observation, Composition and Colour

From careful line drawings to full colour collages – rich and evocative imagery by primary-aged children. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Set Design with Primary Aged Children

Beautifully illustrated resources shares how year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children at Bourn Primary Academy explored set design through drawing and making.

Drawing Stories: Illustrations by Children

Using small toys, charcoal and text to create drawings rich in narrative. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Designing Wallpaper!

Using photocopied drawings to design wallpaper! [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)