Design and Technology
in EYFS

Intent:

At Lawn, we aim to foster curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills in our youngest learners through hands-on, exploratory, and imaginative experiences in Design and Technology (DT).

Our approach aligns with the EYFS framework, supporting children in developing fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and an understanding of materials, tools, and construction.

Implementation:

DT is integrated into our play-based curriculum, encouraging children to explore, experiment, and create through a variety of activities, including:

- ✓ **Exploring Materials** – Investigating different textures, shapes, and properties of materials such as wood, fabric, paper, and recycled objects.
- ✓ **Construction and Building** – Using blocks, junk modelling, and simple tools to build structures, developing problem-solving and coordination skills.
- ✓ **Joining Techniques** – Introducing methods such as gluing, taping, folding, and weaving to combine materials effectively.
- ✓ **Mechanisms and Movement** – Exploring how objects move through simple mechanisms like levers, pulleys, and wheels.
- ✓ **Cooking and Nutrition** – Engaging in basic food preparation activities to develop an understanding of healthy eating, hygiene, and food handling.

Impact:

Through DT, children develop confidence in their ability to create, test, and refine their ideas. They enhance their communication skills by discussing their designs and working collaboratively with peers. By the end of EYFS, children will have a foundation in key DT skills that prepare them for further exploration in Key Stage 1, fostering a lifelong love of making and problem-solving.

Area of Learning: *Expressive Arts & Design*
Strands: *Creating with materials; Being imaginative and expressive*

In the Early Years, Design and Technology is all about giving children opportunities to **explore materials, develop practical making skills, and learn how to design, create, and evaluate their ideas**. Through our topics and continuous provision, children gain confidence in using tools and joining techniques, explore how things are made, and begin to solve simple problems through hands-on experiences.

Evidence of Design and Technology in EYFS:

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
***Three Little Pigs*:** Children investigate materials for strength and stability by building houses from straw, sticks, and bricks; testing and discussing which structures are the strongest. ***Marvellous Me*:** Children use a variety of building and construction materials to recreate familiar buildings such as their homes. They explore ways of joining materials to represent themselves and their world. ***Dear Zoo*:** Children design and create animal enclosures, experimenting with moving parts such as flaps or doors. ***Let's Celebrate*:** Linked to different festivals, children design and make cards, hats, and decorations, and take part in simple cooking and food preparation activities.	***Explorers*** ***(Arctic, Jungle, Woodland, Space, Ocean)*:** Designing and building shelters or dens for explorers and animals using natural and construction materials. Creating simple moving models such as animal puppets or storybooks with flaps and pop-ups. Building rockets, moon buggies, and boats, exploring wheels, axles, and floating/sinking materials. Designing treasure chests and maps to support imaginative play.	***Castles*:** Children design and build castles and explore mechanisms such as drawbridges and hinges. They experiment with different materials to create strong towers and walls. ***Minibeasts*:** Children design and create bug hotels using natural and recycled materials, and make simple models of minibeasts (with features such as wings that flap).

Continuous Provision
Across the year, children have daily opportunities to access a wide range of construction and design materials, both indoors and outdoors. Outside, they use large blocks, crates, tyres, and natural resources to create collaborative structures. Indoors, they explore smaller-scale construction kits such as block play and junk modelling. Through this, they develop skills in **planning, making, evaluating, and problem-solving**.

Children also experience **cooking and nutrition activities**, such as preparing fruit snacks or making simple recipes, helping them understand healthy choices and basic food preparation.