

# At Home with Children: Creative Projects

## Design Elements - Shape and Pattern

Use the design elements as the focus of some at home creative projects. This is a useful way to frame the learning and it sets up good design thinking practices that will be useful across different learning areas.

These projects are based on:

- stimulating curiosity
- introducing and developing vocabulary and art making skills
- resources that most homes will have or are easy to find, expanding how we think of visual arts learning



### Three key components for home-based visual arts learning

Art Journaling – Documenting discoveries and experimenting



Art Projects – Making



Art Appreciation – talking, thinking and writing



*Each bold word represents a key stage in the creative process – by choosing a focus such as design elements it helps to frame the learning experience, making the learning more memorable and transferrable to new situations.*

Tick once completed		Set up an <b>art journal</b> to explore ideas, carry out experiments, reflect on projects
<div data-bbox="68 1201 186 1276" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; width: 73px; height: 36px; margin-bottom: 20px;"></div> <div data-bbox="201 1381 717 1772" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div data-bbox="305 1774 613 1801" style="text-align: center;"> <p>Patterns inside a Bee hive</p> </div>		<p>This resource offers a range of ways to explore the design elements of shape and pattern at home.</p> <p>Set up a creative <b>Research</b> project using the theme of shape and pattern.</p> <p>Work in your art journal or sketch book if you have one. If you have only loose sheets of paper find a paper clip, folder or staple pages to keep the project artworks and research together.</p> <p>This project will help you to identify and draw various shapes and patterns that you discover in your home and garden. The point of the research project is also: to extend and build new vocabulary; to describe what you discover; and to help you intentionally use shape and pattern as design elements in your art making.</p> <p>Your themes could be as simple as shapes and patterns in my home or a discovery trail to find tessellating patterns in nature.</p>

Tick once completed

Select your research area and consider how you are going to explore your subject



Set a **hypothesis** or framing statement that you set out to prove or disprove. Alternatively, you could set up a question to test your experiments against. Setting up a hypothesis or question helps to add intentionality to your research/experimentation with design elements. Remember it is OK to disprove your hypothesis.

Some examples of hypothesis:

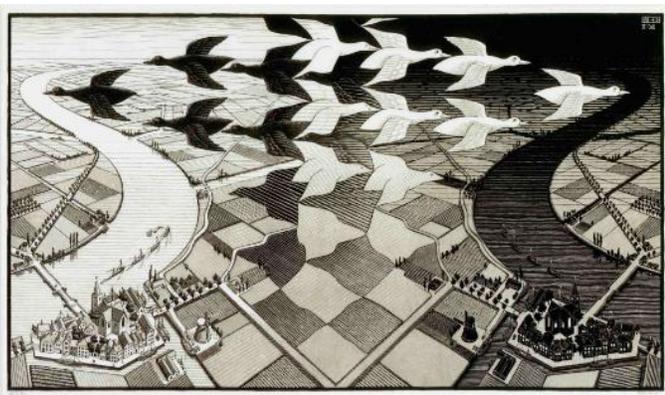
- Organic shapes are mostly found in the garden and geometric shapes are mostly found in the house – I am going to find ten examples of each to discover if this is true.
- Symmetry, asymmetry and dynamic symmetry appear in nature and in architecture (buildings) and constructed objects (umbrellas, crockery and kitchen utensils) – therefore object and building designs are inspired by nature. True/False? Why?
- Start the project by doing some online research to discover the definition of each of these words: balance, symmetry, asymmetry and dynamic symmetry, tessellation, organic, geometric.

**Example of a framing question about pattern:**

Where in my house or garden can I find tessellating patterns. (Tessellation is an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping.)

□  
**Set a Hypothesis to frame your creative research/experiment**

Tick once completed



Tip: look at examples of tessellation on google images to visually understand what this word means. Artist M.C. Escher is a master of tessellation.

## Drawing research

Work together with your child to **Design** your Shape and Pattern Art Project, including a material list. Note: almost all materials can be art materials.

For example:

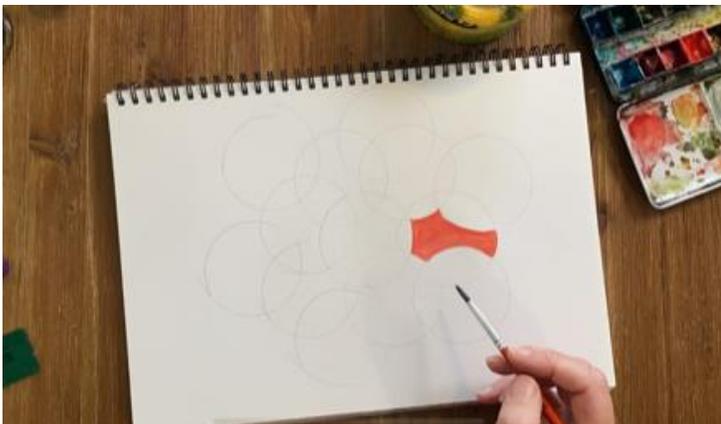
- Look for objects around your house or garden that you like the shape of.
- Draw the objects.
- Among other things, objects can be synthetic/natural, geometric/organic, living/non-living.
- Take notice of the shape of the object. For example, a swing set often has at least two strong triangles, a teacup has two circles or ovals depending on how you look at it. A daisy has a central circle and radiating petals that are loosely, irregular oval shapes.
- Choose one object to draw several times. You can stick with one material and style or try out different materials and different styles.
- You can do multiple drawings on one page, across a two-page spread or over several pages if you keep coming up with new and interesting ways to represent your subject.
- Try drawing the object from different angles, or choose a detail that interests you.
- If you have a magnifying glass, draw a micro view of your subject that focuses on tiny details.
- Combine unexpected objects in your art journal. For example, draw a daisy and a potato, or cutlery and a teddy.
- Review your journal work and decide what elements you want to use in your artwork.
- Gather the resources you will need and use your new skills and observations to **Create** your artwork based on your research.

Design your Project and complete research in your journal.



## Example Artwork One: Using objects as templates to create patterns

- **Create** an artwork using object/s from around your house or garden as the template. For example, draw around cups, cutlery, kitchen jars etc. overlap some of the outlines. Colour in or paint and make the overlapping spaces a blend the colours.
- Create a series of artworks using the above technique of using objects as stencils – make a different artwork for different rooms in the house; the bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and garage
- You could choose colours that are true to the original subject and make the colour choice





realistic or maybe you'd like to use colour imaginatively. Try setting up a challenge such as: use only primary colours or secondary colours and don't paint adjoining shapes in the same colour.

- Another colour option is to use only black, white and grey to complete the artwork – perhaps make the overlapping areas shades of grey.
- You might also like to experiment with writing or stenciling words into your artwork. Choose words that add to the theme of your artwork and practice what script/style of lettering you would like to use on a spare page in your journal. Look online for lettering examples.

#### Further Research

- Look online to define the following: primary colours, secondary colours, tertiary and analogous colours.
- Use an online template to create a colour wheel – you can use coloured pencil, watercolor or acrylic paint to make your own colour wheel.

Tick when complete

## Example Artwork Two: Combining collage and drawing



- Collect some fresh or dried leaves in the garden or at the park when you are out for a walk.
- Press fresh leaves between the pages of a heavy book between two clean sheets of paper and leave them there for week to dry out.
- Then glue either pressed or dry leaves into your journal – place them with leave some space around them to add extra hand drawn leaves .
- Look carefully at the shapes and patterns made by the leaves, notice how the stem joins or if there any seed buds.
- Careful observation in preparation for drawing will help you identify and compare the shapes, sizes and particular qualities of your leaves.
- Using the leaves as a model lightly draw in additional leaves until you are happy with your design.
- Outline in pen, don't worry if your lines are not exactly on the pencil line.
- Add colour – either water colour or coloured pencil works well for this artwork.
- using the ekaves as a model draw in the rets of the leaves
- When the paint is dry you may like to closely observe the veins in the leaves and add these as the final detail.

Tick when complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Example Artwork Three: Collage and Drawing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press some fresh flowers in a heavy book between two pieces of clean paper.</li> <li>• When your flower is dry – glue it into your journal.</li> <li>• Use the pattern of the flower petals to hand draw extra petals. Observing nature closely in order to create a drawing – lets us make new discoveries about the natural world – like the way that there is a logic and a rhythm to the patterns found in nature.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capturing and framing the learning	Write notes in your art <b>journal</b> about your experiments. If this is hard, ask a family member to help you write down what you learnt and what you felt in your journal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Share	Have a <b>discussion</b> about the project, with friends or family members. You might like to call your nan or pop or favorite aunty or uncle. It can be fun to share what you are learning.
<p><b>Notes to parent/s:</b> Reaching for language to recount the experience or describe what took place is very good for the development of children’s vocabulary, narrative and cognitive abilities. Consider sharing on social media platforms that are appropriate to your family. Here are some other tips to consolidate the learning.</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal reflection	<p><b>Observe</b> and take note of what your children, enjoyed, what you enjoyed and what was challenging – art making is an iterative process that at its best is more about discovery than a finished product. Although we all love to have those moments when we create something that we are pleased with – be careful not to let competition and comparison damage the joy of discovery and the pleasure of simply making ...</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Join In	<p><b>Consider</b> starting your own art journal alongside your children, supporting our children’s creativity and learning can give us an opportunity to enjoy some creativity of our own. Plus, the shared experience of being involved in the making may amplify the learning.... and certainly, has self-esteem benefits as you concentrate on a shared creative experience together.</p>

