

Design and Technology Skills Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Humankind	Everyday products	Name and explore a range of everyday products and explore how things work.	Name and explore a range of everyday products and begin to talk about how they are used.	Name and explore a range of everyday products and describe how they are used.		Explain how an existing product benefits the user.	Investigate and identify the design features of a familiar product.	Explain how the design of a product has been influenced by the culture or society in which it was designed or made.	Analyse how an invention or product has significantly changed or improved people's lives.
	Staying safe	Show an understanding that tools and equipment need to be used safely and collaborate with others when moving large equipment.	Follow rules and instructions to keep safe.	Follow the rules to keep safe during a practical task.	Work safely and hygienically in construction and cooking activities.	Use appliances safely with adult supervision.	Work safely with everyday chemical products under supervision, such as disinfectant hand wash and surface cleaning spray.	Explain the functionality and purpose of safety features on a range of products.	Demonstrate how their products take into account the safety of the user.
Processes	Mechanisms and movement	Explore, build and play with a range of resources and construction kits with wheels.	Explore, build and play with a range of resources and construction kits with wheels and axles.	Use wheels and axles to make a simple moving model.	Use a range of mechanisms (levers, sliders, wheels and axles) in models or products.	Explore and use a range of mechanisms (levers, sliders, axles, wheels and cams) in models or products.	Explore and use a range of mechanisms (levers, axles, cams, gears and pulleys) in models or products.	Use mechanical systems in their products, such as pneumatics.	Explain and use mechanical systems in their products to meet a design brief.
	Electricity	Explore battery-powered objects using switches to turn them off and on.	Identify products that use electricity to make them work.	Identify products that use electricity to make them work and describe how to switch them on and off.	Create an operational, simple series circuit.	Incorporate a simple series circuit into a model.	Incorporate circuits that use a variety of components into models or products.	Use electrical circuits of increasing complexity in their models or products, showing an understanding of control.	Understand and use electrical circuits that incorporate a variety of components (switches, lamps, buzzers and motors) and use programming to control their products.
Creativity	Generation of ideas	Develop their own ideas and explore a variety of resources, including blocks and construction kits to create 'small worlds' and objects linked to their interests.	Create collaboratively, share ideas and use a variety of resources to make products inspired by existing products, stories or their own ideas, interests or experiences.	Create a design to meet simple design criteria.	Generate and communicate their ideas through a range of different methods.	Develop design criteria to inform a design.	Use annotated sketches and exploded diagrams to test and communicate their ideas.	Use pattern pieces and computer-aided design packages to design a product.	Develop design criteria for a functional and appealing product that is fit for purpose, communicating ideas clearly in a range of ways.
	Structures	Make simple structures using a range of materials.	Construct simple structures and models using a range of materials.	Construct simple structures, models or other products using a range of materials.	Explore how a structure can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable.	Create shell or frame structures using diagonal struts to strengthen them.	Prototype shell and frame structures, showing awareness of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce them.	Build a framework using a range of materials to support mechanisms.	Select the most appropriate materials and frameworks for different structures, explaining what makes them strong.

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	Use of ICT	Seek support from adults to use digital devices to create a digital record of their creations.	Use digital devices to take digital images or recordings of their creations to share with others.	Use design software to create a simple plan for a design.	Use design software to create a simple labelled design or plan.	Write a program to make something move on a tablet or computer screen.	Write a program to control a physical device, such as a light, speaker or buzzer.	Link a physical device to a computer or tablet so that it can be controlled (such as changing motor speed or turning an LED on and off) by a program.	Use a sensor to monitor an environmental variable, such as temperature, sound or light.
Investigation	Investigation	Explore simple tools within practical tasks and experiment with joining materials.	Choose and explore appropriate tools for simple practical tasks.	Select the appropriate tool for a simple practical task.	Select the appropriate tool for a task and explain their choice.	Use tools safely for cutting and joining materials and components.	Select, name and use tools with adult supervision.	Name and select increasingly appropriate tools for a task and use them safely.	Select appropriate tools for a task and use them safely and precisely.
	Evaluation	Share their creations with others and respond to questions and suggestions about how it was made.	Adapt and refine their work as they are constructing and making.	Talk about their own and each other's work, identifying strengths or weaknesses and offering support.	Explain how closely their finished products meet their design criteria and say what they could do better in the future.	Suggest improvements to their products and describe how to implement them, beginning to take the views of others into account.	Identify what has worked well and what aspects of their products could be improved, acting on their own suggestions and those of others when making improvements.	Test and evaluate products against a detailed design specification and make adaptations as they develop the product.	Demonstrate modifications made to a product as a result of ongoing evaluation by themselves and to others.
Materials	Cutting and joining textiles			Cut and join textiles using glue and simple stitches.	Use different methods of joining fabrics, including glue and running stitch.	Cut and join wools, threads and other materials to a loom.	Hand sew a hem or seam using a running stitch.	Combine stitches and fabrics with imagination to create a mixed media collage.	Pin and tack fabrics in preparation for sewing and more complex pattern work.
	Materials for purpose	Explore and choose freely from a variety of materials when making.	Select appropriate materials when constructing and making.	Select and use a range of materials, beginning to explain their choices.	Choose appropriate components and materials and suggest ways of manipulating them to achieve the desired effect.	Plan which materials will be needed for a task and explain why.	Choose from a range of materials, showing an understanding of their different characteristics.	Select and combine materials with precision.	Choose the best materials for a task, showing an understanding of their working characteristics.
	Decorating and embellishing textiles			Use gluing, stapling or tying to decorate fabric, including buttons and sequins.	Add simple decorative embellishments, such as buttons, prints, sequins and appliqué.	Decorate a loom weaving using embellishments, such as natural or silk flowers, tassels and bows.	Create detailed decorative patterns on fabric using printing techniques.	Use applique to add decoration to a product or artwork.	Use different methods of fastening for function and decoration, including press studs, Velcro and buttons.
Nature	Food preparation and cooking		Follow instructions, including simple recipes that include measures and ingredients.	Measure and weigh food items using non-standard measures, such as spoons and cups.	Prepare ingredients by peeling, grating, chopping and slicing.	Prepare and cook a simple savoury dish.	Identify and use a range of cooking techniques to prepare a simple meal or snack.	Use an increasing range of preparation and cooking techniques to cook a sweet or savoury dish.	Follow a recipe that requires a variety of techniques and source the necessary ingredients independently.

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	Nutrition	Help to prepare a range of healthy snacks.	Suggest healthy ingredients that can be used to make simple snacks.	Select healthy ingredients for a fruit or vegetable salad.	Describe the types of food needed for a healthy and varied diet and apply the principles to make a simple, healthy meal.	Identify the main food groups (carbohydrates, protein, dairy, fruits and vegetables, fats and sugars).	Design a healthy snack or packed lunch and explain why it is healthy.	Evaluate meals and consider if they contribute towards a balanced diet.	Plan a healthy daily diet, justifying why each meal contributes towards a balanced diet.
	Origins of food	World Explore and try a range of foods and suggest where they come from.	World Begin to identify the origins of some foods.	Sort foods into groups by whether they are from an animal or plant source.	Identify the origin of some common foods (milk, eggs, some meats, common fruit and vegetables).	Identify and name foods that are produced in different places.	Identify and name foods that are produced in different places in the UK and beyond.	Describe what seasonality means and explain some of the reasons why it is beneficial	Explain how organic produce is grown.
Comparison	Compare and contrast	Share their creations with others and begin to notice how the work of others is the same or different to their own.	Describe what, why and how something was made and compare with others.	Describe the similarities and differences between two products.	Compare different or the same products from the same or different brands.	Explain the similarities and difference between the work of two designers.	Create and complete a comparison table to compare two or more products.	Survey users in a range of focus groups and compare results.	Create a detailed comparative report about two or more products or inventions.
Significance	Significant people	Begin to talk about important products.	Explore significant products.	Describe why a product is important.	Explain why a designer or inventor is important.	Describe how key events in design and technology have shaped the world.	Explain how and why a significant designer or inventor shaped the world.	Describe the social influence of a significant designer or inventor.	Present a detailed account of the significance of a favourite designer or inventor.