

Mural Creation

Before beginning the session, decide how the finished mural is going to be displayed. If you lucky enough to have a free wall and someone who can transfer the children's ideas onto a wall and paint them, great! If not, there are a range of other options:

- Create small group murals/collage – each group sticks their characters, objects and words on sheets of A3 paper – display these in the classroom
- Create a whole class mural/collage on a wall or board – as above but using all the images created by the class.
- Create a whole school mural/collage - allocate a wall in an indoor or covered area, where children can stick their character, objects and words to create a collaborative mural. Invite parents in to view the finished display.

Instructions

- Split the children into groups of 4.
- Explain that in today's session they will be creating a mural for RSE Day on the theme of 'Communication in Healthy Relationships'.
- Share a bit about the mural artist, Millie Yarwood, using the images on the PowerPoint.
- In groups, ask children to write 'Communication in Healthy Relationships' in the centre of a large sheet of paper and mind map all the different words, phrases, icons, symbols, and images that come to mind on the topic.
- Discuss each groups' responses. Encourage children to consider the colours that represent healthy communication and healthy relationships. As a class pick a colour scheme for the mural. For example, if their mind map focuses on communication that is calming, it might be nice to use some pale baby blues. If they focus on positive cheery communication, yellows might be appropriate. Having a limited colour palette helps to bring the finished mural together.
- Share Millie's characters from PowerPoint slide 7. Explain that Millie has a particular style when drawing people. Ask the children what they notice about the characters. Explain that Millie's characters have long limbs, are very stylized, and not always in the proportions we would expect. To create her characters Millie first works in pencil, using shapes to create each part of the body, eg. Head, arms, legs. She then outlines in darker pen or paint and colours in.
- Give each child a piece of stiff paper or card and a pencil. Ask them to draw their own characters and objects on some card, using their mind map and Millie's style as inspiration. Remind them that these characters are designed to interact with each other and the objects on their mind map. (It's nice to have characters of all different sizes because it means the composition can become more interesting.)
- Next step is to colour the characters/objects using whatever medium you have available (paint, pencil, felt etc). Once the figures are coloured in, children can cut out the individual figures, objects, and words.
- The final step is to assemble the mural. Depending on what approach you are taking (see above) children work collectively to place and stick their cut outs on to the card, board, or wall.
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- Once things are glued on, they can write some key words to summaries what their visual pieces are showing. The more creative they are with the typography the better!
- Share your finished mural with parents, community members and on social media using the hashtag #RSEday!
- You can use the murals to delve deeper into discussions around communication in healthy relationships.

Materials

- Roll out sheets of paper
- Black markers
- Stiff paper or card for creating images
- Somewhere to stick the images, eg. A large sheet of paper, a wall, a board.
- Paint/pencils/felts (In a chosen colour palette)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Images of my characters for inspiration

Millie Yarwood

You can find see more of Millie's work and videos of her painting her murals on her Instagram account @millieyarwoodart