



# Drawing From Memory

Help children develop a visual vocabulary that they can use to help them draw from memory. Photographs can also be used to support their recollection.

## Materials

- A4 Paper
- Drawing media e.g crayons, pens, pencils etc
- Photographs (optional)

## Method

- Ask the children to close their eyes and make a picture in their mind of what they will be drawing. Talk to them for a moment, asking them to picture shapes, colours and textures.
- When they open their eyes ask for volunteers who can describe the picture they had in their mind. Encourage them to use good descriptive words - this is a great way to extend their vocabulary.
- If you are using photographs then take a look at them and discuss any details the children remembered or any that they had forgotten.
- The children can now begin drawing. Remind them to try fill the paper.
- Talk to individuals as you walk round the room, discussing details and encouraging them.
- Put all the pictures together on tables at the end and ask the children to comment on something they like in someone else's work.

## Taking it further

Do lots of observational drawing throughout the year as this helps children add to their visual vocabulary. Place a viewfinder over a section of an object and see if they can draw just what is in the window. Read the children a story and ask them to draw the main character - you may want to repeat some of the descriptive text while they are working.

## Experimenting

With regular practice of observational drawing children develop a 'visual vocabulary' or bank of recorded images in their mind. This is like a developing vocabulary of words in language work. It is this visual vocabulary that children draw upon when working from memory.

