

BOX OF Delight



"We must do all we can to alleviate the impact of school closures on disadvantaged children."

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT
FOUNDATION

"Be playful and creative through play, art, music, dancing and singing"

NSPCC ADVICE ON
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

"Help children find ways to express feelings – sometimes engaging in a creative activity can facilitate this process"

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL
WELLBEING

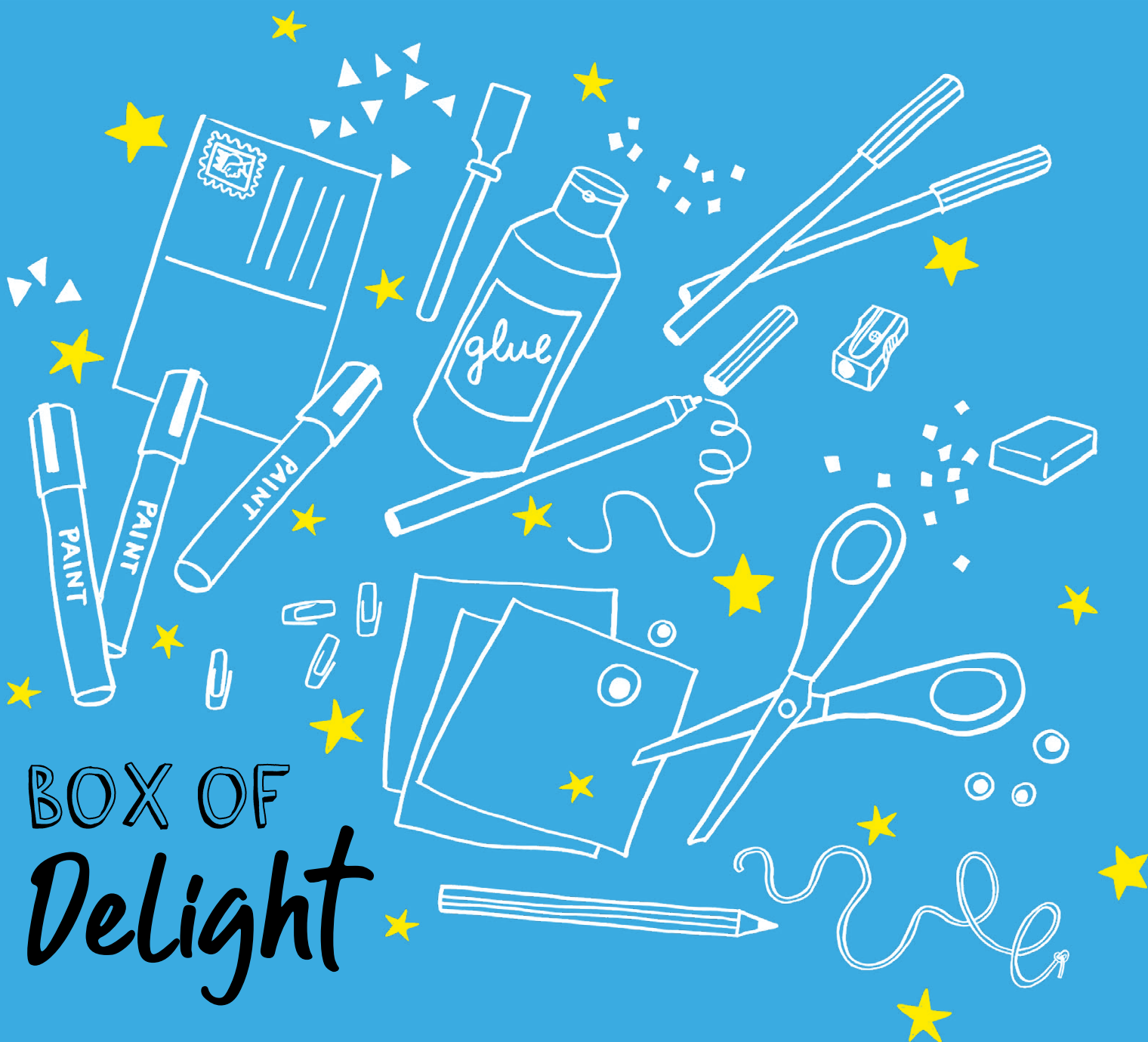
"Provide engaging age appropriate activities for children, including activities for learning"

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL
WELLBEING



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BOX OF Delight

is a partnership project conceived by **Delight** and delivered in partnership with **Paintbox** and **Watts Gallery – Artists' Village** to support the learning and wellbeing of high need children during the closure of schools due to Covid-19.

Delight is an established local charity that works in partnership with primary schools to support the learning and wellbeing of children affected by poverty and disadvantage.

Cut off from learning and support

All children across the country have had their lives and learning disrupted due to the school closures. But it is the already vulnerable and at risk children who will be most impacted – those who lack support and/or resources at home, who have learning or language challenges, who are affected by poverty and disadvantage made abruptly worse by job losses, those on 'at risk' registers and vulnerable to increased abuse, young carers and other children made vulnerable by their specific circumstances. For many children, school is a place of safety and stimulation as well as learning.

There is a wealth of new online resources available to help keep children learning – but little practical support for those children who lack access to the internet, a printer or even basic home learning resources. Home learning also requires significant parental support which is simply not a reality for many children for wide-ranging reasons. This is a particularly challenging time for children's mental health and wellbeing, isolated at home and cut off from familiar support structures as well as their wider family and friends

Box of Delight – Learning and wellbeing in a box

Our Box of Delight project is designed to support the learning and wellbeing of children aged 7-11 affected by disadvantage or other vulnerability during this unprecedented school closure. Each child will receive a specially created resource box that contains all they need to complete a range of art-based activities. Box of Delight is inspired by our successful 'Delight in Watts' in-school project, proven to improve children's learning and wellbeing outcomes.

it's really interesting to
learn how to do art
so then if your angry it
mibe calm you down.

CHILD, DELIGHT IN WATTS

From the moment the Box of Delight arrives on the doorstep (delivered by a fabulous teacher or teaching assistant) the adventure begins. Each element of the project is designed to have a 'wow' factor, as children work step-by-step through 4 Rainforest-themed art activities, progressively exploring and deepening learning. All activities are designed to be self-led, with clear written and pictorial instructions, plus short child-friendly 'how to' films for those children who do have Internet access. There will be enough materials for a child to repeat activities, consolidating learning, or to share the project with a younger/older sibling or parent/carer. Experience shows that encouraging children to focus on creating their own artwork helps improve their resilience, patience and self-belief – and the prospect of a final public exhibition at Watts Gallery provides an exciting finale to aim for, helping children to see beyond the current challenging circumstances.

Target outcomes

Learning & skills:

- Creativity
- Visual art skills & techniques
- Observational skills
- Fine motor skills
- Independent learning
- Topic-related learning (Rainforest)

Wellbeing:

- Improved self-esteem as a successful learner
- Increased sense of purpose and control
- Experience of calming and therapeutic power of art
- Awareness of art as a means of expressing emotions

Activity One Drawing Rainforest Birds

The children fix a sheet of clear acetate over a photographic image of a bird and carefully trace everything they see with paint pens. This is a brilliant way to develop observational skills and focus on drawing what they can actually see rather than what they imagine. The final result

looks fantastic when displayed in a window (and children may enjoy spotting their friends' artwork if out for a walk). We plan to include several sheets of acetate and different pictures so that children could repeat the process and consolidate learning.



Activity Two Rainforest Diorama

A piece of white card, pair of scissors and some colours is all the children need to create a wonderful miniature world. This activity of drawing, cutting and sticking is an opportunity for them to explore their ideas through 3D construction of a habitat. We will include several sheets of white card so that children can repeat the process and consolidate learning.

The painting has helped me to learn more about rainforest animals and what happens when they lose their habitat.



Activity Three Bird World in a Box



Children scale up their ideas and construct a bird which hangs from the lid of their Box of Delight. The box itself is transformed into an amazing habitat for their bird by experimenting with collaged layers of foliage.

Activity Four Outdoor Art Installation

Children use their creative and pattern making skills to decorate a small wooden bird. These will then be used to create a fantastic art installation at Watts Gallery – Artists' Village later this year, hung alongside hundreds of others in the woodland around the gallery. Each child will receive a 'Golden Ticket' so that they can visit the gallery and installation free of charge with an accompanying adult.



Box of Delight Content

Art Materials

The Box of Delight contains the full range of art materials needed for each activity, as well as providing children with resources and ideas that they can carry on using at home.

Instruction Booklets

Each activity pack will include very simple step by step instructions, both written and pictorial. Each activity will have a separate booklet and would be broken into a step per page.

Online Film Clips

Each activity will also be accompanied by a short and simple 'how to' film, with a Paintbox artist working with a primary age child to do each task in the box.

Art Activity Journal

Inspired by the Arts Award journal we currently use in primary schools, this A4 booklet will contain additional activities children can enjoy and learn from. If children and teachers choose, Delight can help schools obtain Arts Award Discover level to recognise children's achievements.

Box Table

The box the art materials arrive in can be used as a 'table' for children who lack a work surface.

Storage

The box is reusable and can store all the materials between activities.

'Looking After Yourself' Information

Many children will be struggling with difficult emotions; for some, being confined to home will bring increased risks to mental wellbeing. Age-appropriate information will be provided so that children know where to go for support.

I have learnt
how to do drawing.
It made me feel
so happy like
I'm an actual
artist.

CHILD, DELIGHT IN WATTS

Box of Delight will only be possible with the generous financial support of funders and support in kind from suppliers. All supporting organisations will be fully recognised on each Box of Delight and through all of our press coverage and external communications, and those of other project partners.

