



IKON ACTIVITY PACK

EARLY YEARS AND KS1

IKON



STARTING SCHOOL

Ikon's activity packs are designed for creative learning at home or school. Created by artist-educator Haseebah Ali, the activities in this pack are designed to support children and their families to prepare for starting school.



This pack is inspired by Abdulrazaq Awofeso's exhibition OUT OF FRAME, concerned with the movement of people around the world.

When starting school, children and their families experience significant changes which take some adjusting to. Children's experiences of transitioning to school environments, and arriving in a new place, will affect a broad range of emotions. Thinking about this transition as being like a journey helps to highlight how both families and communities play an important role in supporting children navigate their way through this experience, and the different skills, qualities and support needed.

Organised in partnership with University of Cambridge, University of Birmingham and Kettle's Yard these resources are part of Ready or Not, a study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), which aims to explore children's development in Reception and Year 1.

Share your creations with education@ikon-gallery.org or via social media @ikongallery #ikongallery.

EXPLORE ARTWORKS BY ABDULRAZAQ AWOFESO

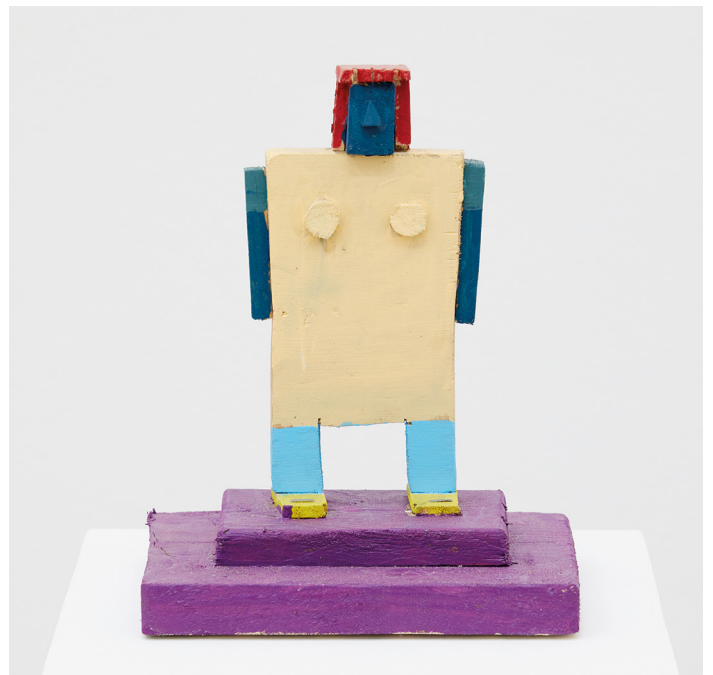
Awofeso's artworks can be used for creative thinking and talking about how it feels to arrive in a new place – something experienced by children when starting school.

Inspired by these artworks, the creative activities in this pack are designed to encourage children to express themselves, explore feelings and connect with others.



Abdulrazaq Awofeso is a Nigerian artist based in Birmingham. His exhibition at Ikon Gallery, *OUT OF FRAME*, included sculptures of people made from discarded wooden pallets used to transport goods around the world. The use of this material symbolises the movement of people and the journeys they take from one place to another.

Awofeso arrived in Birmingham from Lagos, a city in Nigeria. He has painted each figure to represent real and imagined characters coming



together from different backgrounds. The exhibition celebrated our differences and collective strength.

Key words: Arrival, welcome, journeys, community.

Art form: Sculpture, installation, storytelling.

Take a 3D tour of the exhibition.

LOOK AT THE ARTWORK

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM (2022)



These sculptures represent the people Abdulrazaq Awofeso met on an aeroplane travelling from Lagos, Nigeria to Birmingham, UK. He decided to portray his fellow travellers after spending time getting to know them at the airport.

Can you describe what the people are wearing?

How might it feel to arrive somewhere you have not been before?

What would make you feel settled in a new place?

Who can you ask for help and support from if you need it?

What could you do to welcome somebody to a new place?

How might you greet somebody you have not met before?

Can you think of another word for 'hello'?

LOOK AT THE ARTWORK

AVALANCHE OF CALM (2021–22)



This installation of 3,000 figures shows the modern city where people from all walks of life come together. The artwork celebrates our differences and collective strength.

Everyone is special. What makes you special?

What similarities do you share with other people?

How do our differences make the world a more interesting and better place?

What does it feel like to visit a new place and meet new people?

Can you tell a story about a time you visited a new place and met new people?

What would make you feel settled when visiting a new place?

CREATIVE ACTIVITY

WHAT SHOULD I PACK IN MY BAG?

As you prepare for school, you will pack your school bag for your first day. Think about the items you might take to school.

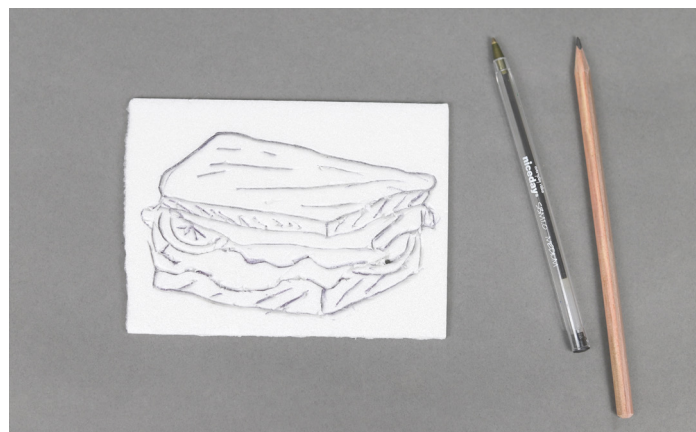
Which ones would help you feel settled?

Create a foam print of your items.

You will need: plain paper, foam board (you can reuse polystyrene pizza bases, plates or takeaway containers), paint, paint brush, paint tray, ball point pen, felt tip pen, pencil.



- 1 Use a felt tip pen to draw a picture of a bag onto a sheet of paper. Set it to one side.



- 2 Using a ball point pen or pencil, draw an item you would like to take to school onto your foam board. Make sure you press into the foam to create a groove.



- 3 Put a small amount of paint onto a paint tray. Using a paint brush, paint an even layer over the foam board, covering all the lines you have made.



- 4 Place your foam board, paint side down, on top of your drawing of a bag. Press it down using your hands, then remove it to reveal a print of your item. Show your family and friends your artwork. Talk about what items other children might pack in their school bag.

CREATIVE ACTIVITY

MY COMFORT OBJECT

On your first day of school you will be inside a classroom. If you could take a comfort object with you to remind you of home, what would it be? Use modelling clay to create a sculpture of your comfort object.

You will need: modelling clay (you can use a salt dough recipe to craft with), clay tools (optional), a small cardboard box, scissors, felt tip pen.



1 Think about the object you would like to create using clay. Pick out the colours you will need.

2 Using your hands and the clay tools, shape your modelling clay to form the object you have chosen. Set it to one side.



3 With the help of an adult, cut off the top of your cardboard box with scissors. Draw windows and a door onto the side of the box to create a miniature classroom.

4 Place your clay items inside the cardboard classroom. Tell your family and friends about your artwork and why you wanted to create this object.

This resource draws from the *Ready or Not* research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and led by:

Professor Claire Hughes (University of Cambridge)

Dr Rory Devine (University of Birmingham)

Dr Elian Fink (University of Sussex)

Dr Hana D'Souza (University of Cardiff)

For more information visit: readyornotstudy.uk

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Open Wednesday–Sunday, 11am–5pm
Free entry, donations welcome

Stay in touch

      @ikongallery

Please consider [making a donation](#) for this free resource. Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do.

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