



I Am Festival 2024

11 March - 15 March

I Am Resource

See Me! Hear Me!

**A NEW
DIRECTION**

We create opportunity

I Am Festival

2024

This year, the I Am Festival is happening over several venues, between 11th and 15th March. Activity is taking place in schools and cultural venues across London with opportunities to learn skills and share practice, all in celebration of the creative talent of Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people.

Along with a schedule of events for students, teachers and the cultural sector, we are extending an invitation to all schools and families to take part in self-directed activities. Our network and festival are open to all specialist settings and SENDCOs and we support collaborations of all kinds: school visits, workshops, showcases and online sharing.

Our theme is 'See Me! Hear Me!'. What does this mean to you? Is it about vision, justice, giving a voice to those who are not always heard?

This resource offers some ideas for you to try in the classroom or at home and share beyond in whatever way you like. They are budget-friendly, using the ideas, skills and materials you already have!

Have fun with them and share your creations with us!

#IAmFestival2024

Where Equality Blooms

Our Cultural Ambassadors launched the I Am Festival 2024 with their garden of Fabulous Flowers at Sadler's Wells. We made different versions and tried to find our favourite model that anyone can make.

Using coloured card, pipe cleaners, a disposable espresso cup and some pens, you can create your own flowers and decorate them with patterns and messages that shout out 'See Me! Hear Me!'

Use our guide below to get started. Copy ours or design your own version.

1.



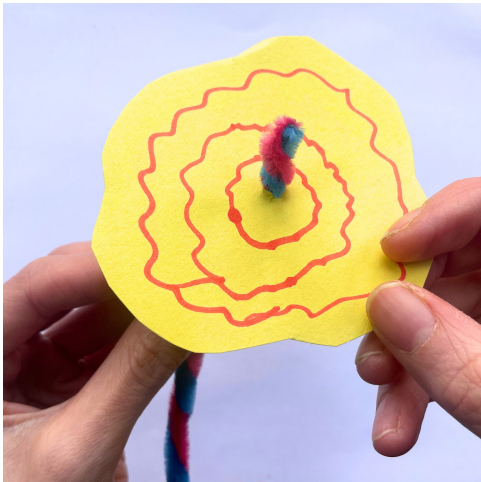
Select a pre-cut flowerhead or use the template to cut out your own. (If you cut out your own, you will need to make a small hole in the middle with a pen).
Decorate your flowerhead to represent you!

2.



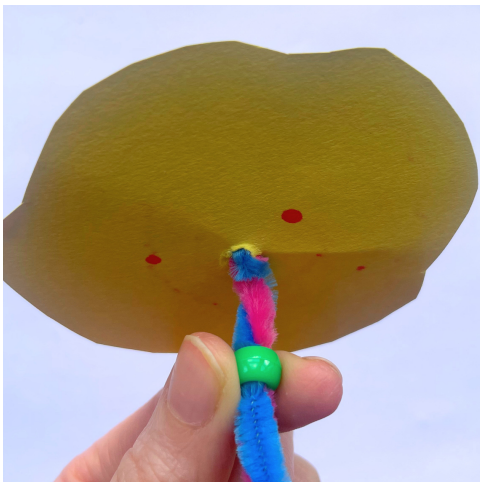
Pick two pipe cleaners and twist them together to make your flower stem.

3.



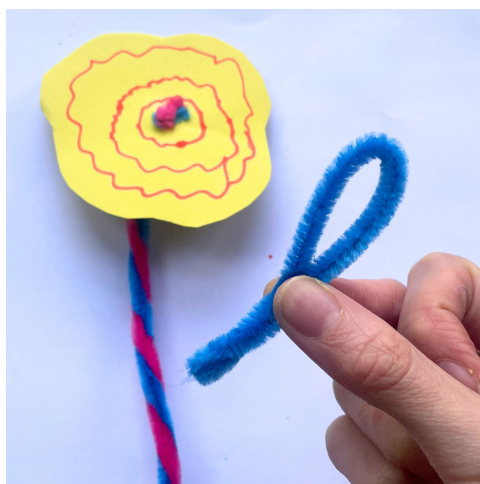
Gently slide the top of your pipe cleaners through the hole in your flowerhead and twist them over to create the centre of your flower.

4.



You can also add a bead under your flowerhead to make sure it is extra secure.

5.



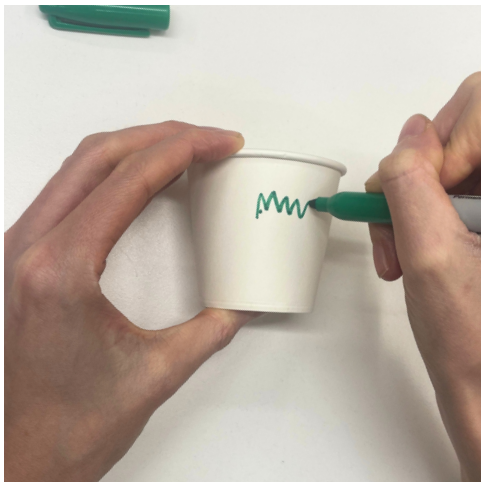
You can also use the pipe cleaners to make leaves.

6.



Twist your pipe cleaner leaves around your stem. Be careful of any sharp ends.

7.



Now you need to decorate a flower pot to plant your flower in. Use the colour pens and tape.

8.



The final step is to use a bit of tape and some play-dough to secure your flower in is pot!

TA DA!

Manifesto

We are the Cultural Ambassadors

We are confident

We are crazy

We can lead

We have freedom

We have spirit

We have opinions

We are individuals and

We are unique

This statement was created and recorded in an astonishing ten minutes by our Cultural Ambassadors at one of their first sessions together.

Create you own

Can you or your class/ group create a manifesto that expresses who you are in no more than 10 lines? You could use words, images or symbols.

Could you record it with some fun sound effects? Or film it with some fun movements?

Could you create a series of placards for a group photo?

Could you make a class book?

Origami Heart

Another activity tested by our Cultural Ambassadors is making a heart using simple origami, writing a short message on it and then leaving it somewhere for someone to find:

In the classroom

In a library

In a book

In a café

Share some love and make someone's day with a beautiful surprise message.

Watch this how-to video

This is one example of an easy how-to video without speech or music

Creative Prompt

The wonderful 64 Million Artists offers creative prompts to inspire doing, thinking and sharing inspired by an idea from all kinds of people and organisations.

You can find them here:

https://64millionartists.com/creative_prompts/

Look out for 'made to measure' inspired by the access rider in A New Direction's [Inclusive Progression Routes toolkit](#).

Sensory Banners

When words are not enough, engage all your senses with a different take on the protest banner!

Start with your base material

Voile, canvas, hessian, netting or vinyl are good options.

Some curtain netting is already weighted to make it hang well.

Sew channels for poles/ropes etc before you attach any other items. Make some small holes or slits to allow air to flow through if the fabric is heavy.

Then add your sensory elements

Pillows and pockets and lucky dips

Bells and whistles

Fidget toys, small plush creatures

Jewels, sparklies, bangles and beads

Flowers and feathers

Scent bags

Mirrors and reflectors

Fairy lights

Colours and textures

Messages

Double-sided foam tape is useful for a quick fix. A glue gun and/or stitching would be best if the banner is going out on a journey.



Sensory Banners

What's the message?

A plea, an invitation, a statement of fact.

Something provocative.

Use rhyme, puns, made up words or just keep it simple and true.

Be kind

I like everyone

Access denied

Join the sensory revolution

Family and community engagement

Why not invite parents and carers to join in with the making?

Show and share

Take your banner on a picnic. Join with another setting.

Have a demo in your local streets.

Have a photo in front of the library, with your MP, in the shopping centre.

Share a photo online. Get some media coverage.

