

New Way Drawings – Levels A & B

CREATIVE

To support early adaptability and creative exploration by encouraging students to change one familiar thing in a supported, low-pressure way. Inspired by Pluto from The Playful Astronauts, this activity helps students experience that difference is okay and that trying something new can feel safe and enjoyable.



Learning Intentions

Students aim to experience that familiar things can look different.



Students aim to make a simple creative choice when doing something in a new way.

Students aim to show or communicate a choice they have made through their artwork.



Success Criteria

I can take part by drawing, choosing, touching, or watching.

I can help create a simple booklet with support.

I can show or respond to “trying” using actions, visuals, or AAC.

I can stay with the activity for part or all of the time.



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Duration: 10 - 15 minutes

Objective

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Players

Individual activity

Suitable for 3 - 16 students

Optional brief sharing with an adult or peer

What You Need

A4 paper

Coloured pencils

Optional:

- Pre-drawn simple outlines (sun, face, house, tree)
- Collage pieces or textured paper
- AAC devices or switches as required

Setup

Seat students at tables, floor mats, or wheelchair-accessible workspaces.

Limit materials to reduce overload.

Revisit the Pluto idea using very simple language and visuals:

“Pluto is different from the other planets.”

“Being different is okay.”

Show one model example, for example:

- A sun with a different colour (blue sun)
- A face with one big eye (instead of two eyes)

Say clearly:

“Today we want to do things in a new way.”

“There is no wrong or right today, be creative!”

Confirm AAC devices are on and open to simple concepts such as colour, more, finished, like.



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Gameplay

Step 1: Choose Something Familiar

Offer one clear choice only, for example:

- “A sun”
- “A face”

Students choose by:

- Pointing to which one they want to work on
- Eye gaze towards their choice
- AAC
- Reaching for their choice

An adult may place the chosen outline or blank page in front of the student.

Step 2: Make It Different

Invite the student to make **one change only**, such as:

- Choosing an unusual colour
- Adding a mark in a new place
- Using a different decorating method

Use concrete language:

“You chose a different colour.”

“You’ve thought of a new way to do it.”

Adults may support with hand-under-hand assistance, modelling, or offering two clear options.

Any mark, colour, or placement is accepted.

Step 3: Show the New Way

Students are supported to indicate something about their drawing.

This may include:

- Pointing to the changed part
- Looking at it
- Touching it
- Using AAC (e.g. “like”, “colour”, “more”)

Adults narrate neutrally:

“You chose a different colour.”

“This is new.”



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Debrief / Reflection

Keep reflection concrete and brief.

Offer one prompt only:

“Do you like the new colour you chose for the sun?”

Students may respond through:

- Gestures
- AAC
- Eye gaze
- Vocalisation

Reinforce verbally:

“You tried a new way today, well done!”

Winning the Game

There are no winners or losers.

Success is making a choice and staying with the activity.

Sensory-Specific Learner Variation

Purpose: To support regulation and engagement.

Adjustments may include:

- Textured materials for tactile input
- Vertical drawing surfaces
- Short drawing time with movement breaks
- Completing only one mark

Observation-only participation is valid.

AAC-Specific Supports

Prepare AAC in Advance

Key words: different, colour, like, finished, more

Model AAC Use

Adult models while narrating:

“Different colour.”



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Accessibility and Inclusion Notes

Fine motor demands can be reduced through pre-drawn templates or collage.

Students may direct an adult to place colours or marks.

Digital drawing tools may be used if appropriate.

Focus on experience and choice, not outcome.

Teacher Notes

“New Way Drawings – Levels A & B” introduces adaptability as a felt experience, not a concept to explain. By changing just one element of something familiar, students safely practise difference, choice-making, and creative exploration. Linked to Pluto, the activity reinforces that doing things differently is not wrong, it is simply another way of being.

