

# 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.

