



Our Early Years Curriculum is topic-based, thematic and creative, and referenced to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is a statutory requirement for schools in England. Children in both Nursery and Reception follow this curriculum, through which our young children explore, investigate and play through both adult-initiated activities and those freely-chosen by the child.

The classroom environments are set up so that children can move freely around clearly defined areas. This includes both indoors and outdoors for reading, writing, art, construction, imaginative play, science and mathematics. There is a balance between activities that the teacher chooses for your child, and opportunities for child-initiated learning in a structured environment.

Play underpins all development and learning for our young children. Most children play spontaneously, although some may need adult support. It is through play that they develop intellectually, creatively, physically, socially and emotionally.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first.

These are:

- Communication and language - this area of learning and development is about how your child listens and pays attention, understands what is being said, communicates with others and develops vocabulary and speech
- Physical development - this area of learning and development is about how your child moves and uses gross motor skills, develops fine motor skills, learns about healthy living and manages self care independently
- Personal, social and emotional development - this area of learning and development is about how your child is confident and self-assured, manages their feelings and behaviour, makes friends and shares and takes turns

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

- Literacy - this area of learning and development is about how your child enjoys reading books, likes making marks, learns to write and starts to explore phonics and letter sounds
- Mathematics - this area of learning and development is about how your child learns about numbers and counting, recognises the passing of time and explores measures, capacity, space, shapes, opposites etc during play

- Understanding the world - this area of learning and development is about how your child finds out about nature and the world around them, talks about people and their local community and learns about similarities and differences and learns to confidently use ICT equipment
- Expressive arts and design - this area of learning and development is about how your child enjoys being creative, sings, dances and makes music, plays imaginatively and uses colour to express themselves

An important part of planning appropriate activities for your child is understanding what your child can already do. We continually assess your child so that we can plan for their next step of learning. Regular meetings with parents enable us to share this progress with you, and also gives you a chance to let us know what your child can do at home, so that we can build a full picture. Education does not stop at home-time, and you have a valuable part to play in helping us to instil a life-long love of learning by developing inquisitive minds. You might like to try some of these activities at home.

- Explore the park at a different time of the year - go off the beaten track!
- Use the weather - shadows, rain, puddles, snow, wind, mist and sun - to extend your child's vocabulary
- Share a book
- Talk to your child at every opportunity - e.g. what you are doing that day
- Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch
- Cook or bake together
- Allow your child to cut out and stick pictures from a magazine
- Talk about the numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out and about
- Sing and tell nursery rhymes
- On a trip to the supermarket, talk about all the different packaging shapes

At the end of the EYFS - in the summer term of the Reception year in school - teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This is carried out by the Reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year - Year 1 - will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it.

The information that we gather about your child as part of the EYFS Profile will form part of their end-of-year report.

