

## The Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Nursery and Reception classes work together as a Unit providing high quality learning experiences, working in partnership with parent/carers providing a broad range of knowledge and skills and giving every child a good foundation for future progress.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is divided into **seven areas** of learning and development, with three areas as Prime and four as Specific areas of development.

The three **Prime Areas** of learning are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These are:

- **Personal, social and emotional development;**

Children develop a positive sense of themselves and others; form positive relationships and develop respect for others; they develop social skills and learn to manage their feelings and to understand appropriate behaviour in groups and to have confidence in their own abilities.



- **Communication and language development**

Children are given opportunities to experience a language rich environment; to speak and listen in a range of situations and to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves.



- **Physical development**

Children are encouraged to be active and interactive; to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement; helped to understand the importance of physical activity and make healthy choices.

The four **Specific Areas** of learning through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied are:

- **Literacy**

Children are taught to link sounds and letters; they will begin to read and write; they are given access to a wide range of reading materials to spark their interest.

- **Mathematics**

Develops and improves children's skills in counting, calculating, understanding and using numbers, and describing shapes, spaces and measures.



- **Understanding the world**

Children are helped to make sense of their community and their physical world through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment



- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children learn to play and explore with a range of materials and media; they are encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology

Children learn through a play based approach, engaging in activities that are both child-initiated and adult led. Children are assessed throughout the Foundation Stage to identify and support their individual learning needs and interests.

We always like to encourage our children's parents/carers to share their child's achievements at home by recording and sharing those 'wow!' moments.

## Getting your child ready to start school

You have already taught your child a great deal. Here are a few ideas to help support them as they continue their learning journey:

- Positive praise is very important and helps your child to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. Children develop and grow when they are happy.
- Talking with and listening to your child is so important. Share stories and rhymes, sing songs and share everyday experiences. Talk about the everyday things you see around you and encourage your child to notice and talk about the things around them too. Share books and ask your child what might happen next; play with words making up silly rhymes with both real and 'nonsense' words.
- Encourage and support your child to use crayons and paints; scissors, glue, playdough and water play. Children learn most through play, it helps them to make sense of the world around.
- Before your child starts school, help them to become independent and able to dress and undress themselves with minimal adult intervention.



Encourage them to do up their own buttons/zips; put their shoes and socks on and take them off. Children will be supported to be responsible for and to take care of their own belongings and other peoples, so naming all their belongings and making sure they can identify their name will help them. Encouraging your child to tidy away their own toys and belongings at home will help them to become independent and to develop a sense of responsibility.

- Self-care is very important so please help your child to become independent and confident to use the toilet without adult help wiping, washing hands and flushing on their own. Help your child to know when and how to blow and wipe their nose. Help them to remember to have a handkerchief or tissue in their pockets and that they need to then wash their hands after using these. Support and encourage your child to use a knife, fork and spoon.
- Being active and interactive. Children will be encouraged to be physically active and take part in the many opportunities that are provided both inside and outside throughout the day. Why not begin by walking to and from school each day with your child?
- Learning opportunities are provided both inside and outside of the classroom. All of the children will be outside at some point in the day, even on rainy days, so please ensure your child brings a coat every day!



- Milk and fruit/ vegetables are provided for snack time, but please also bring a bottle of water, with your child's name on, to drink throughout the day.
- School can be very tiring! All children get worn out sometimes and this is perfectly normal.

Most of all help your children to look forward to coming to school. Tell them about all the wonderful and exciting new opportunities they will have for making friends, learning new things, painting, playing, listening to stories and exploring the world around them.

If you should ever have any concerns or worries about your child please do talk to us. Our doors are always open. We are here to help and we look forward to working together with you and your child.