

# How we learn in the early years



## How does your child learn?

In the early years of a child's life play is crucial to the child's development and learning. Play is a child's work and the means by which a child grows and develops. Playing and talking are the means through which young children learn about themselves and the world around them.

## Areas of learning

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a curriculum from birth to five years old, we follow the strands set by this curriculum and concentrate the learning opportunities on the 7 areas of learning (3 Prime and 4 Specific).



Altogether there are 17 early learning goals and 7 areas of learning, which are a bit like subjects. Throughout FS1 and FS2 your child will be working towards meeting these early learning goals.

## **Prime Areas**

### **Communication and language**

To experience a rich language environment, develop expressive skills and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

### **Physical development**

To be active and interactive, develop co-ordination, control and movement, to make healthy food choices and understand the importance of physical activity to be healthy.

### **Personal, social and emotional development**

To develop confidence, a positive self-image, to form positive relationships, develop respect for others and understand appropriate behaviour.

## **Specific Areas**

### **Literacy**

To begin to read and write, linking sounds and letters and to develop an interest in a wide range of literature.

### **Mathematics**

To develop and improve counting, understanding and using numbers, to calculate simple addition and subtraction problems, describe shapes and measures.

### **Understanding the world**

To begin to make sense of the world and the community, to find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

### **Expressive arts and design**

To explore a range of media and materials, to share thoughts and ideas in art, music, movement, dance, role play and design technology.

## **The areas of learning in detail**

### **Prime Areas**

#### **Communication and language**

Listening and Attention Understanding Speaking

#### **Physical development**

Moving and Handling

Health and Self-care

## **Personal, social and emotional development**

Self-confidence and Self awareness

Managing Feelings and Behaviour

Making relationships

## **Specific Areas**

### **Literacy**

Reading

Writing

### **Mathematics**

Numbers

Shape Space and Measures

### **Understanding the world**

People and Communities

The World

Technology

### **Expressive arts and design**

Exploring and Using Media and Materials

Being Imaginative

### **Areas in our provision**

- Maths
- Writing/Mark making
- Reading
- Information Technology
- Role play
- Creative
- Small World
- Outdoor play
- Construction
- Malleable
- Water/sand/mud
- Curiosity/investigation

# How can you help at home?

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Practice dressing and undressing, for example taking off and putting on shoes and socks, putting on and fastening own coat.
- Use the toilet independently and wash own hands.
- Practice taking turns and sharing.
- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.

## Communication and Language

- Practice taking turns in conversation and using 'please' and 'thank you'
- Recall, sequence and role play stories.
- Join in with rhymes and songs.
- Talk about the world around you.

## Literacy

- Identify the initial sound in words, Play 'I spy'.
- Use a range of non-fiction and fiction books.
- Talk about characters and events in stories.
- Engage in activities requiring control and co-ordination such as threading, puzzles and using scissors and glue.
- Encourage your child to draw/paint pictures and talk about their pictures and mark making.

## Mathematical Development

- Join in counting rhymes and count everyday objects.
- Begin to recognise numbers and put them in order.
- Find one more or one less than a group of objects.
- Sort objects according to colour, shape or size.
- Talk about the size and shape of objects.
- Make patterns and pictures with shapes.
- Use everyday words to describe quantities – heavier, lighter, more, less etc.