

Learning in the Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) early learning goals comprise seven areas, three prime and four specific.

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) is the foundation for all areas of learning and development. Children are taught to play co-operatively, sharing and taking turns with others and showing them respect. They learn to work as part of a group and take account of one another's ideas and feelings. This will help them to form positive relationships with adults and peers.

Communication and Language requires children to listen attentively in a range of situations, e.g. stories, instructions, conversations. They learn to give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately. Children show they understand by following instructions involving several ideas or actions. They are encouraged to answer 'how' and 'why' questions in response to stories or events. We encourage them to be confident to speak in a familiar group, to talk about their ideas, make up their own narratives or talk about their experiences.

Physical Development is essential for both health and handwriting! Children need good control, co-ordination and balance in large movements so spend lots of time outdoors, developing their gross motor skills. They learn to move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They develop fine motor skills by learning to handle equipment and tools effectively, for mark making and cutting. Children are taught to manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.

Specific Areas

Literacy refers to early reading and writing skills. We encourage children to develop a love of books and stories, discussing what they see in the pictures, answering 'how' and 'why' questions and predicting what might come next before they begin to read words. Children take home library and reading books to share at home. They learn simple phonic sounds and actions, songs and poems. We value their emergent writing and mark making, encouraging them to write for a range of purposes; shopping lists, prescriptions in the role play doctor's surgery. We ask them to 'read' what they've written and begin to write the letter sounds they're learning to form simple words and sentences.

Mathematics is practical. Children count objects in the world around them and use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money. They learn to recognise and describe patterns and shapes. They are taught to recognise and write numbers and relate these to quantities.

Understanding the World encourages the children to explore the world around them. They learn by looking at their own lives and making simple comparisons, e.g. between past and present, between our community and others with different cultures and traditions. They talk about their own immediate environment and make observations of animals and plants, beginning to notice and explain changes. They learn to use a range of technology including computers, cameras and I-pads.

Expressive Arts and Design explores a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour and design. Children develop their imagination and learn to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, singing, dancing, role-play and stories.

Parents can support this learning by sharing books and stories at home, and getting your child to talk about their ideas and opinions or answer questions. Please encourage them to un/dress themselves and manage going to the toilet independently, as this really helps them to feel more confident. Remember we are there to help teach them and support them with tasks they find challenging.