

Our Early Years Foundation Stage

In our Early Years, children are actively encouraged to independently explore the indoor and outdoor environments in imaginative ways, sparking investigation and interest in the world around them.

We use our children's interests and next steps to inform our planning for our curriculum and adapt our provision to emphasise this. We deliver our curriculum in this way as research and evidence shows us that the learning experience is enhanced and memorable when related to children's interests and life experiences. Teachers plan a rich and stimulating range of experiences to promote enthusiasm for learning and children's ability to co-operate and work harmoniously with their peers. There is a strong focus in supporting pupils to develop the characteristics of effective learning (playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically) to become successful learners in the future.

Our outside provision is organised to allow flexibility in designing and delivering our provision. There is a focus on providing a range of continuous provision resources to support children's learning across all areas of the Early Years's curriculum. This includes a large sand and water play area, construction, mud kitchen, outdoor mark making, maths tuff spots, role play and a range of other areas can be created matching the current learning. We use our children's interests and next steps to focus our provision - for instance, we can set up larger physical development areas when needed.

We have also identified learning basic cooking skills and developing a knowledge of foods and recipes is an essential part of early learning. Many of our children enjoy cooking opportunities and the chance to independently use equipment and tools, so we incorporated a cooking area into the indoor provision. Here the children are active in choosing what they would like to cook and understanding what they will need for this. The skills they learn include (but are not limited to) list writing, measuring, health and self-care and where our food comes from.

Children in Nursery and Reception experience the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning:

- Communication and Language.
- Physical Development.
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development.
- Literacy.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding the World.

Vocabulary and language development is threaded throughout our Early Years curriculum. We offer opportunities to provide vital experiences for developing the fundamental skills of speaking and listening, recognising and writing letters and words, sorting, matching and counting. In addition, children listen to stories and engage in daily phonics, reading and writing. They learn to write about their own experiences as well as the planned activities. Daily mathematics sessions enable children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space. Physical activities promote physical fitness, coordination and enable children to find out how their bodies work. We support and guide alongside the children's play to scaffold building relationships and allowing them to learn social skills.

Children's knowledge of key skills within English, Maths, Communication and Language are screened upon entry to Reception using the Government baseline assessment. Their progress is then tracked throughout the year through an assessment system and the teacher's knowledge.

Every term we send parents information about our learning and curriculum for the current term via our parent app.

