

## A Guide to the Seven areas of Learning and Development

The Early Years Foundation Stage is an educational programme that has been produced by the government and states that educational activities and experiences we provide to our children must cover the seven, interconnected areas of development and learning.

We use these areas of learning and development when we are observing, assessing and planning for your child's needs to ensure that they are as ready for their future education as possible.

The seven areas of learning are split into two groups:

**The Prime Areas** – these the three main areas we focus on when children start at the setting. These lay down the foundation for all children's learning, ensuring that children are able to relate to others, communicate effectively and engage with their environment.

**The Specific Areas** – These areas are as important as the prime areas but cannot be developed alone, by building on the development gained through the prime areas children are able to develop learning across all areas of our curriculum.

### The Prime Areas

Area	What we want our children to achieve in this area:	Examples of how we aim to achieve this:
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-To become confident, have a positive self-image and believe in themselves.</li><li>-To be able to express themselves, their wants and opinions and to become independent.</li><li>-To develop understanding of their own and others feelings and emotions.</li><li>-To build relationships and make friends.</li><li>-To share and take turns and to manage conflict with others.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-By providing strong, warm relationships where children can feel safe and valued.</li><li>-By using stories, games and chat to help children learn to understand and manage their feelings.</li><li>-Adult modelling and guidance.</li><li>-By using our Rainbow Rules to reinforce learning, such as our red rule "We are kind to others" and our blue rule "We try, try, try till we can, can, can".</li></ul>
Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-To be able to listen and pay attention.</li><li>-To be able to understand what is being asked of them – to be able to follow instructions.</li><li>-To be able to communicate with others using an increased range of vocabulary.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Small group time games and activities help to promote listening and attention.</li><li>-By modelling good language and sensitively extending and correcting children's language.</li><li>-By providing children with a rich language environment.</li></ul>

Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To be able to move in a variety of ways using their gross motor skills.</li> <li>-To develop fine motor skills to enable children to effectively use the smaller muscles in hands and fingers they need to learn to write.</li> <li>-To become increasingly independent in meeting their own care, such as toileting and hand washing.</li> <li>-To begin to learn about making healthy choices about food, drink, activity and teeth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Our outside provision provides opportunities for children to move around freely, balance, climb.</li> <li>-Adult support helps children to push themselves and to take risks, such as jumping from a small height.</li> <li>-Activities and resources are provided to get children using their hands and fingers to develop their fine motor skills.</li> <li>-Discussion about healthy living and challenges, such as our Tapestry Tooth Brushing Challenge are set for children to do at home with parents.</li> <li>-Staff encourage children to be independent and to help each other with coats, shoes etc.</li> </ul>
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### Specific Areas

Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To develop a love of books</li> <li>-To enjoy mark making.</li> <li>-To write some letters accurately</li> <li>-To learn how individual sounds link together to form words – oral blending&gt;</li> <li>-To start to explore phonics and letter sounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-By providing a cosy area where children can access a range of books.</li> <li>-Stories, rhymes and songs are enjoyed daily in small and large groups.</li> <li>-Story telling is encouraged through puppets and small world play.</li> <li>-Print is displayed around the environment and we talk about what it means.</li> <li>-Provision of a wide range of resources both inside and out encourage all to mark make.</li> <li>-Mark making equipment is provided in role play to encourage children to write shopping lists, draw maps etc.</li> </ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To develop a strong understanding of numbers to recite numbers, subitise, count and begin to recognise numerals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maths opportunities are woven through all activities that we provide at preschool, for example counting how many cups we need at snack time or weighing ingredients to make cakes.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop understanding of mathematical language such as size and position.</li> <li>-To explore and compare capacity, weight, length etc.</li> <li>-To name and explore 2D and 3D shapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Practitioners model maths language and encourage children to learn about space, shape and measure by challenging them to problem solve – such as how to move water from one tray to another.</li> <li>-Now and next cards are used to help children learn about time and practitioners use sequencing language such as first and after.</li> </ul>
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To explore and learn about the natural world around them.</li> <li>-To talk about people, their local community and how they are the same or different to those around them.</li> <li>-Explore how things work, different forces they can feel and how materials can change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nature walks around the school ground where we explore the changes that each season brings.</li> <li>-Our nature garden and vegetable garden give children hands on experiences of growth and decay.</li> <li>-We celebrate families from a variety of different backgrounds and cultures. Families are invited into the setting to talk to children about their home lives, occupations etc.</li> <li>-A range of mechanical and electronic equipment is provided to foster interest in exploring how things work.</li> </ul>
Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To use their imagination to be creative and develop their own ideas of how to use materials.</li> <li>-To explore colour, how colour can be used and colour mixing.</li> <li>-To enjoy singing, dancing and music making.</li> <li>-To use their imagination to create role play.</li> <li>-Using creativity to express their feelings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The inside and outside environment ensures that materials and resources required for children to be creative are available for children to self-select.</li> <li>-Resources and props are provided inside and out to encourage children's imaginative play.</li> <li>-Children are given time to create.</li> <li>-Music and dance activities are included in our planning to encourage all children take part.</li> </ul>