

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

The first 5 years are an extremely important part of a child's early education. Purposeful play, adult input and objective-led planning all encourage children to learn key skills that will enable them to develop a love of learning and become independent lifelong learners.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a statutory government framework that sets out standards for learning, development and welfare of children from birth to five years. It explains the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need to learn to support their development, and to acquire the skills they will need at school and beyond.

We use this framework to create our curriculum, and to help us plan for the learning and development of the children in our care.

At nursery, our curriculum is designed to:

- Recognise children's prior learning and their experiences at home
- Provide first-hand learning experiences
- Ensure quality interactions with adults
- Provide a language-rich environment
- Inspire a lifelong love of learning

Children acquire knowledge, skills and demonstrate understanding via the **7 areas of learning and development** that form the EYFS curriculum:

- **Communication and language**
- **Personal, social and emotional development**
- **Physical development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the world**
- **Expressive arts and design**



We use guidance laid out in 'Development Matters (2021)' to implement specific requirements for learning and developing as described in the Early Years Statutory Framework (2021).

The emphasis on **how** children learn has huge potential to empower children as confident, creative lifelong learners. We use the 'Characteristics of Effective Teaching & Learning' to encourage children to follow their interests, make independent choices, and to develop their thinking skills through positive adult interactions.

- **Playing and exploring:** children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'
- **Active learning:** children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements
- **Creating and thinking critically:** children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things