

EYFS



Curriculum Overview

In EYFS our curriculum is child led where we follow the interests of the children. We do not have set topics however we do have key objectives that are taught throughout the year. These objectives underpin the children's learning through a range of different learning activities and through continuous provision. Our curriculum is split into seven core areas;

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

Below you will find more information on each area, the skills that we focus on as well as some sample activities.

Communication and Language

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations. It is split into three key areas;

- Listening and Attention
- Understanding
- Speaking

Listening and Attention

The children will be given lots of opportunities to develop their listening skills through various activities. The children will focus on maintaining their attention in different situations and be able to respond appropriately to questions, when listening to stories or instructions as well as responding with relevant comments. The children will engage in conversations with adults and their peers through 1:1 sessions, group work and whole class discussions.

Understanding

All children will develop their understanding skills by following instructions, as well as answering 'how' and 'why' questions in different situations. The children will interact with others through their play and during conversations and will be asked to follow instructions and requests. The children will answer questions about their own experiences and respond to stories and events.

Speaking

Throughout the year the children will develop skills to help them express themselves effectively and will work on being aware of the listeners needs. We will help the children to use past, present and future forms when talking about things that have/are going to happen. The children will work on developing their vocabulary and understand the meaning of new words. The children will develop skills to help them clarify their thinking and be able to give reasons and explain their ideas.

Here are some sample activities:

- Key person time (talking about feelings, sharing news and listening to stories).
- Floor books (asking and answering questions as well as sharing what we would like to learn about).
- Taking registers and messages to the office/other classes.
- Providing instructions to make a model, programme toys, washing hands.
- Whole class learning inputs such as Phonics.
- Memory games.
- Listening games such as musical statues, corners, Chinese whispers and Simon Says.

Physical Development

Physical development involves providing opportunities for children to be active and interactive; to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food. It is split into two key areas;

- Moving and Handling
- Health and Self-Care

Moving and Handling

The children will be provided with activities to develop their co-ordination in large and small movements. The children will develop running, jumping, hopping, balancing skills as well as practising throwing and catching. The children will be able to move confidently in a range of ways as well as safely negotiate space by changing direction and being aware of their own space. They will develop skills to handle equipment and tools safely including pencils for writing. The children will work on strengthening muscles in their shoulder, elbow, wrist and fingers and hold writing tools with the correct grip. The children will practise forming letters correctly ensuring that they start each letter from the correct point.

Health and Self-Care

Throughout the year we will talk about the importance of good health, physical exercise, a healthy diet and learn about ways to keep healthy and safe. Children will manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs such as dressing and undressing themselves for PE and going to the toilet independently. A big focus will be put on self-care where the children will develop being responsible for their own belongings and ensure that they keep themselves and others safe when using and transporting tools, equipment and resources. Children will be taught about road safety and will develop skills to communicate their own needs in relation to toileting, being thirsty/tired as well when they need help from others.

Here are some sample activities:

- PE lessons linked to balancing, developing fundamental movement skills (e.g. jumping, running, throwing, hopping etc)
- Exploring movement through dance activities.
- Construct and build models using lego, stickle bricks.
- Using tweezers to pick up objects.
- Obstacle courses.
- Hand washing
- Opportunities to try different foods.
- Observing the effects of exercise on our bodies.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, Social and Emotional development involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others as well as form positive relationships and respect for others. Children will develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings and understand what behaviour is and is not appropriate. It is split into three key areas;

- Self-confidence and Self-awareness
- Managing Feelings and Behaviour
- Making Relationships

Self-confidence and Self-awareness

Children will develop a sense of what they like and do not like as well develop skills to talk about their opinions, interests and share their achievements with others. Activities will be planned to develop their independence by selecting their own resources and carrying out tasks without support. We will also focus on developing the children's confidence when making choices and trying new activities and taking responsibility for themselves and their belongings.

Managing feelings and behaviour

Children will develop their ability to express their feelings in a range of situations. A focus will also be put onto understanding different feelings and explain why they are feeling a particular way. All children will develop their communication skills by making choices, communicate what they need and listen to others. A big focus is also put on children understanding and following rules, sharing with others and understand how others may be feeling.

Making Relationships

Throughout the year, children will build friendships with adults and peers. They will also develop skills to work together, to share, to take turns and be considerate to the needs of others. The children will develop their use of language to negotiate, co-operate, plan and organise play as well as resolve conflict. Children will also develop communication verbally and non-verbally. They will develop the use of facial expressions, body language, listening and recalling events, making suggestions and respond to experiences.

Here are some sample activities:

- Sharing achievements, qualities and skills.
- Taking responsibility for their belongings at different times of the day.
- Have classroom jobs.
- Children to make choices at snack-time, making their own snack and talk about their likes and dislikes.
- Take on the role of characters from different stories
- Talk about what makes a good friend and why.

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link letters and sounds and begin to read and write. It is split into two key areas;

- Reading
- Writing

Reading

Reading is split into Phonics, Word Reading and Comprehension. During the year children will be taught how recognise sounds, and will use this knowledge to develop skills to decode and blend sounds together to develop their reading ability. They will also be taught to recognise a variety of tricky words where phonics cannot be used. We will work with the children to help them read simple sentences and recognise some capital letters and lower case letters. Focus will also be put onto the children's comprehension skills. During carpet sessions and group tasks we will learn how to hold books correctly and recognise key features within a text. Children will also make predictions and talk about events of stories.

Writing

Throughout the year we focus on mark making, children will be encouraged to give meanings to the marks they make, use writing in their play as well as use recognisable letters. Children will also be encouraged to write the initial sounds in words and supported to build words using letter sounds. The children will build up to writing simple words through segmenting into sounds and writing simple sentences that make sense. We will work with the children to help them orally compose their sentences before writing and teach them about the use of capital letters and full stops. The children will learn how to accurately write her name and spell taught tricky words accurately. The children will focus on forming letter correctly, starting and finishing in the right place.

Here are some sample activities:

- Retelling stories.
- Interviewing 'characters' from stories.
- Matching word cards to pictures.
- Word hunts.
- Talk about what characters are thinking and feeling.
- Making signs, cards, recipes, writing letters etc.
- Draw pictures and mark make.
- Handwriting sessions.
- Picture hunts to record initial sounds/letters.

Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers. They will also be taught to calculate simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, space and measures. It is split into two key areas;

- Number
- Shape, Space and Measure

Number

Children will be able to count forward and backwards from a given number up to 20 as well be able to recognise numerals 0-20. Activities will be planned to develop counting skills and the children will predict how many are in a group of objects and then use 1:1 correspondence to count objects. Children will be taught to solve simple addition and subtraction sentences, up to 10, and identify one more and one less from a given number. We will focus on developing children's skills when doubling and halving, both quantities and numbers, as well as learning to count in groups of 2s, 5s and 10s.

Shape, Space and Measure

Children will be taught to recognise and name some 2d and 3d shapes and use them to create patterns and make models. Children will also sort the shapes into different groups. We will focus on using language to describe position and understand and carry out activities linked to length, height and weight. We will teach the children about weight and distance and encourage children to compare and order items using the terms longer, shorter, taller, shorter, heavy and light. Children will also learn about money and recognise a 1p coin and use this to pay for items. The children will be taught the days of the week and use language linked to time.

Here are some sample activities:

- Counting songs and rhymes.
- Outdoor hunts to collect objects and count (can also be used for adding and subtracting).
- Pegging numbers on a numberline.
- Bingo games.
- Number hunts.
- Shop role play.
- Shape hunts.
- Make potions.
- Measuring ingredients.

Understanding the World

Understanding of the World involves helping children to make sense of their physical world and their communities. This is through providing opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. It is split into three key areas;

- People and Communities
- The World
- Technology

People and Communities

The children will learn to express their feelings and opinions about events in their own lives, as well as talking about their families and the lives of those around them. They will look at the lives of others and learn to respect themselves as well as the ideas, feelings, beliefs and possessions of others. The children will talk about key events as well as finding out about the lives of themselves and their family members which will also include ordering simple experiences.

The World

Children will develop skills when observing and talking about changes in the world around them. The children will be encouraged to ask questions and learn how to explain why things happen or occur. Over the year, we will work on developing skills to help children test out their own ideas, whilst using different equipment. The children will also talk about the features of different places and even start to make simple comparisons by identifying similarities and differences.

Technology

Throughout the year, children will develop basic skills linked to IT for example knowing what a mouse and keyboard are. Children will also use an interactive board to play selected activities, mark-make and will be taught how to make something happen on the screen using simple tools. The children will be given the opportunity to use a variety of electronic communication tools e.g. walkie talkies and learn how to record sounds and speech using a recording device.

Here are some sample activities:

- Have a circle time to share successes with the class.
- Learn about celebrations and share photographs of their own experiences of celebrations.
- Look at objects from the past and present.
- Explore objects that can pushed/pulled, float/sink.
- Explore seasonal weather changes and test out objects during this time e.g. using a kite, making umbrellas etc
- Planting and going on plant and tree hunts.
- Using computer programmes.

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive arts and design involves providing opportunities for the children to explore and play with a variety of media and materials as well as giving the children chance to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology. It is split into two key areas;

- Exploring Media and Materials
- Being Imaginative

Exploring Media and Materials

Children will learn to observe the world through their experiences and objects. They will talk about colours, patterns, shapes and textures as well as manipulate and control a range of tools and equipment. All children will be given the opportunity to use a range of construction resources and to build and make models. The children will evaluate their work by talking about what they like/dislike and identify how they would change them. On top of this, a focus will be put on listening to sounds in the environment and instrumental sounds. They will follow a steady beat, follow rhythms and patterns and learn familiar songs and make their own music.

Being Imaginative

All children will be given the opportunity to explore media and materials and to communicate their own ideas, thoughts and feelings in a variety of ways such as talk, gestures, actions and performance. Children will also be shown how to recreate familiar experiences, familiar activities and familiar stories. The children will be taught how to represent their own ideas through making choices and decisions. This will be through using objects, media, materials, their own voice, dance, instruments and props.

Here are some sample activities:

- Colour mixing.
- Printing with different materials e.g. wool, sponge, net, bubble wrap, hand, finger etc.
- Making decorations out of salt dough.
- Creating collages using a variety of materials.
- Den building.
- Making models such as boats, cars etc
- Ring games and learning songs.
- Role Play areas.
- Puppet making.