

Our Early Years Curriculum Intent

At Yarm Primary School we offer an Early Years curriculum that is rich in wonder and memorable experiences. We ensure that all of our children have a broad curriculum with a good balance of adult led and child initiated activities to secure the best outcomes for our pupils. We understand that play is an integral part of learning and this is at the heart of our Early Years curriculum. It is our intent that the children who enter our Early Years develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally whilst embedding great behaviours for learning. We are focused on creating opportunities for children to communicate well through developing language and communication skills and specifically teaching vocabulary. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as individuals and supported to achieve their full, unique potential.

We provide a stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities, both indoors and outdoors in promoting challenge, exploration, problem solving, adventure and a love of learning.

We aim for our children to be confident, resilient and independent, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others.

Caring, mutually respectful relationships between staff and children, consistent routines and strong relationships with parents are key. We recognise the crucial role that early year's education has to play in providing firm foundations in order for children to become successful learners.

We recognise the importance of the relationship between home and school; as we continue and extend the education which parents/ carers, have begun at home to enable your child to foster a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

The EYFS Framework

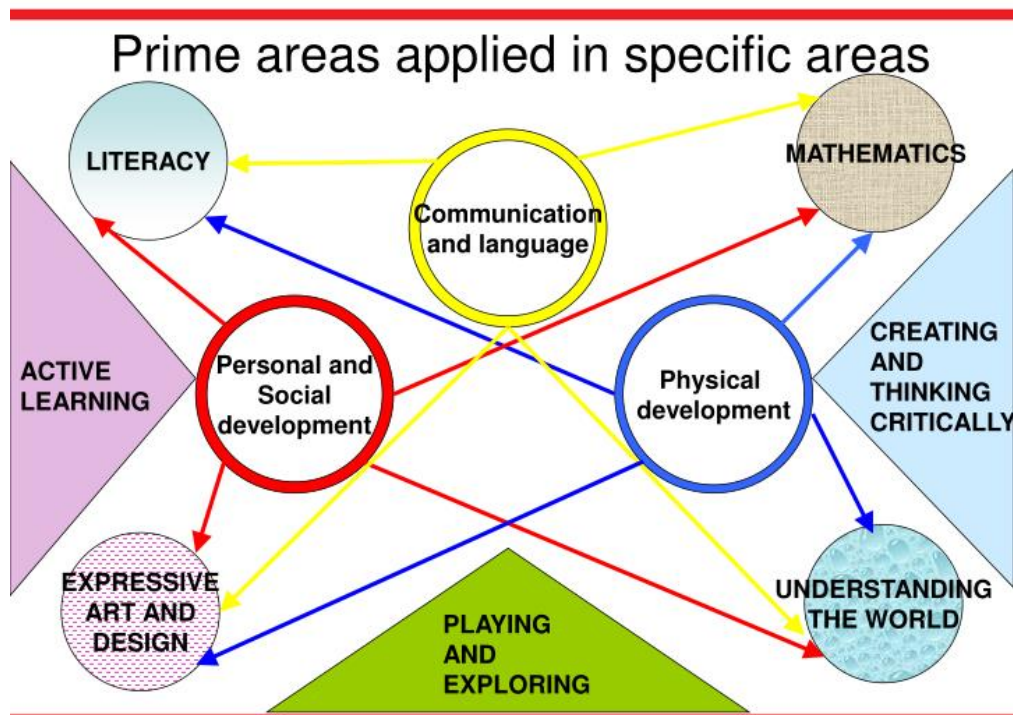
There are seven areas of learning and development that help to shape educational provision in Early Years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. None of the areas of learning can be delivered in isolation from the others. Our children's learning experiences enable them to develop competency and skills not just academically but also socially, emotionally and physically.

The three prime areas which are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Staff will also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



All of those areas of learning are connected together. The characteristics of effective teaching and learning weave through them all. That's because children in the early years are becoming more powerful learners and thinkers. These characteristics develop as they learn to do new things, acquire new skills, develop socially and emotionally, and become better communicators.

At Yarm Primary School our curriculum is built on learning experiences considering both the children's individual needs and achievements to assist them to make progress. Well planned play is a key way in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge during the Foundation Stage. Children deepen their understanding by playing, talking, observing, planning, questioning, experimenting, testing, repeating, reflecting and responding to adults and to each other.

Our learning environment is made up of interlinked spaces which reflect all areas of the curriculum. Here children can make their own choices, encouraging them to play, be curious, interact and persist. Children learn in the indoor and outdoor areas and links are made between both learning environments, to ensure that all children receive a rich and varied curriculum that supports their learning and development.

Our Reading Scheme

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds

This validated scheme is built upon seven identified features of effective phonics practice:

- direct teaching in frequent, short bursts
- consistency of approach
- secure, systematic progression in phonics learning
- maintaining pace of learning
- providing repeated practice
- application of phonics using matched decodable books
- early identification of children at risk of falling behind, linked to the provision of effective keep-up support.

Within school the reading scheme begins with carefully selected decodable books, which consolidate our early phonic teaching of the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds' programme.

Find out more -

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Weather massage

In reception the children are taught a form of peer massage – weather massage – which is a daily activity, as children return to the classroom at the end of lunchtime.



The work is based on clear neurobiological and psychological principles. Children are firstly taught the importance of respect, by asking if their partner wants a massage and that 'no' is an acceptable response and means 'no'. children have direct experience of respectful, kind and gentle ways of relating and are helped to recognise 'good' and 'bad' touch. The intent in addition to well-being benefits is in improving relationships and social skills among children.

Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle!

Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle is an early writing program which incorporates dance, music and large movements to help children develop the fine muscle control they need for writing. They will learn a new gross motor movement to a piece of music while holding 'flappers' (bits of fabric/ magic wands. Pom poms) while dancing along to the music. The children then transfer these movements to floor level and swap their flappers for writing tools (crayons/pens etc) to make marks, this could be in foam, on paper, in sand etc. They will then use this action to think of letters they can form that use this shape. These sessions are great fun but most importantly help your child to be confident mark makers.



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Staff across school have engaged in training for the program and provide opportunities for parents to see it in action and 'have a go.'

If you would like to try it at home you could watch the following:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptFAL-eSvxU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W5KWnhWwzs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0dbHzz7g5U>

Grab some flappers, find some mark making tools and turn the music up! Once you have completed the movements and the mark making see which letters you can see on your paper.

If you search 'Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle Music' on Youtube you will find a range of songs to enjoy while you are Squiggling.

