

The Four Principles of the EYFS

These four principles unite to shape effective practice in Early Years settings.

A Unique Child

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable and self-assured.

Positive relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

Enabling environments

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

The Seven Areas of Learning

The 3 Prime Areas

Communication and Language (CL)

Listening and attention, understanding and speaking. In reception we give children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in different situations.

How you can support your child at home:

- Help your child to retell stories or recall events that have happened to them.

Physical Development (PD)

Moving and handling, health and self-care. In reception we teach children to move in a controlled and co-ordinated way on both large and small scales. We also encourage with activities the development of their fine motor skills such as cutting with scissors or painting with a paint brush. We also teach children about the importance of having a healthy lifestyle, how to dress and undress and manage their own personal hygiene.

How you can support your child at home:

- Practice co-ordination with ball games, bats and balls, hop scotch, skipping, etc. Adventures to the park.
- Discuss healthy items you are placing in their lunchboxes and practice dressing and undressing to prepare the children for PE.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour, making relationships. In reception children learn to become more independent. We also encourage and teach children to be more confident, to take turns and share as part of a group. The children are also taught to become aware and take into account others feelings as well as their own.

How you can support your child at home:

- Playing games that involve taking turns.

The 4 Specific Areas

Literacy (L)

Reading and writing. In reception children are taught to read and spell by learning phonemes (sounds) through the *Letters and Sounds* programme. We also teach about the importance of the different elements that make up a story such as the main character and sequence of events. We teach the children how to correctly hold a pencil and how to turn their mark making into recognisable letters.

How you can support your child at home:

- Reading with them every day.
- Getting your child to help you write the shopping list (perhaps they could have their own note pad).
- Writing their name in Christmas and birthday cards.

Mathematics (M)

Numbers, shape, space and measure. In reception children learn to recognise and count up to nine and further when ready. We also teach them simple addition and subtraction through songs and games. The children learn about shape and position and begin to use mathematical language such as smaller and heavier.

How you can support your child at home:

- Counting everyday objects in the home, eg stairs.
- Recognise numerals for example house numbers, car number plates and telephone numbers.

Understanding the World (UW)

People and communities, the world, technology. In reception we learn to explore our surroundings, look at different cultures, places and find out about different times and events.

How you can support your child at home:

- Encourage questioning of the world around them.
- Observe their surroundings.

Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Exploring and using media and materials, being imaginative. In reception we explore different creative materials, paint, playdough, clay, papier mache. We also develop their imagination through the various role play areas which change frequently throughout the year in regards to the children's interests.

How you can support your child at home:

- Explore different media for their creations at home such as playdough, different papers, fabrics, etc.
- Role playing their favourite story or television programme.

Please talk to your child's teacher if you would like to discuss anything mentioned.