

THE EYFS CURRICULUM

The Curriculum refers to all activities planned and provided by the Pre-school to meet the Seven Early Learning Goals as defined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

1. Communication and language
2. Physical development
3. Personal, social and emotional development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive arts and design

All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas are:

- **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.

- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and 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.

- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves; and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Pre-school also supports children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letter and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating and simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

- **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

- **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

The Early Year's Curriculum is carefully planned and organised to provide:

1. A high quality and effective early years education
2. Purposeful activities to provide opportunities for teaching and learning
3. Relevant and appropriate activities to match the different levels of children's needs
4. Different starting points from which children can develop their learning to enable them to build on what they already know
5. The opportunity to participate in all planned activities as well as explore, experiment, plan and make their own decisions.
6. The opportunity to plan and initiate activities themselves.
7. Children to become engrossed in activities, to enable them to work in depth and to complete their activities.

