

The Curriculum



We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum in all units. This covers the curriculum for Under threes which is Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional development. Once children reach three years old, we add Mathematics, Literacy, Understanding of the World, and Expressive arts and design. Our curriculum is play based and the children learn through play.

We encourage you and your child to borrow our library books as often as you would like. There is a folder in each room to write down which book you take. We also have a wonderful set of toys you can borrow weekly. These include Outdoor activities, puppets, chatterboxes, storybags, and maths activities. There is a selection available for children from baby to five.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum covers:

Communication and Language - We will help your child talk, share books with them, learn new words and their meanings, share conversations, learn to recognise and maybe write their name and so on. We use puppets and story sacks to have fun with language. We are used to helping children who have English as a second language, and we have a speech therapist who can help children who may be delayed in their speech.



Physical development- We all want our children to be fit and healthy, and we have the time, space and equipment to allow children to “let off steam”, run around and have fun. Our outdoor area has been graded by Ofsted and provides a challenging and interesting time for the children. We have soft play equipment for use indoors, and a variety of dance CD’s to use.

Social and Emotional development- Once children have settled in to Nursery, they need to learn to share and to take turns, to care for themselves and for each other. They need to know what behaviours are acceptable and which ones are not. They learn about healthy food and keeping themselves safe. We teach them these things within a caring relationship, we explain things to them and we are good role models.

Maths - Jigsaw puzzles, counting stairs as we go up them, learning number rhymes and songs, matching the number of chairs to the number of people who need one, playing counting games like “What’s the time, Mr Wolf?”, all help children learn to count, reason and solve problems.

Literacy - The children love making up their own stories which we sometimes make into books with photos and words. We have received training in “Every Child A Talker”, which has helped us produce some excellent ideas that make learning really fun. We start phonic work and reading skills with children who are ready for it.



Understanding of the World - This covers areas like Science, Geography, History and Information Technology. Obviously it is important to do these subjects at a level which is appropriate for the children, and they are generally covered in topics that interest them, like: insects, houses, food we eat and so on.

Expressive arts and design -This covers art activities such as painting, drawing and colouring, but also drama, music and learning songs and rhymes.

Planning

All the activities that are done with the children are very carefully planned and reviewed daily, as well as termly and annually. The staff observe the children, noting their development and interests, so that we can plan to extend their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding. This may be done by:

- Adding to, or making changes to the learning environment
- Introducing an idea or activity directly to the children
- Joining in with the children as they play, supporting their own ideas

Children develop confidence, ideas and concentration when they are given the opportunity to play and explore for prolonged periods of time. That is why the sessions are not interrupted until small group time about half an hour before the end of the session.

ICT

ICT plays a part in our curriculum. We are fortunate to have a good supply of computers and Ipads with some good programs to use with the children. They are usually cross-curricular and link in with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. We also have large Smart Boards in each room that the children can use. We access the internet to find interesting and suitable sites for the children and use the LEA recommended broadband service provider that operates a filtering system and restricts access. On your child's admission form we ask if you are happy for them to use the computer whilst connected to the internet. For more information, please see Daryl or Sarah Gilbert, who can discuss this with you.

Homework – Talk time

Every week your child will bring home a sheet that is linked to what they have been doing at school. It will have a task for them to do at home. When it is returned to school, the children talk about what they did, during circle time. After that the sheet will be put into their learning story to keep as a memory.

Learning Stories

The children's records are kept as 'learning stories' which is a file of observations, photos, drawings and comments collected by each child's key person. They are kept in the relevant classroom; if you ask your child's key person she will find it for you to look at. The children are very proud of them and love looking at their own and others. We would be delighted if you would like to use the 'Parents voice' sheet to add your comments.

If your child's learning story is not there the key person is probably working on it. You are welcome to borrow the learning story to take home and show your family, but we ask that you tell the key person first, so we know where it is.