

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive 9 relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others.

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives⁷. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness

EYFS

Early Years

Foundation Stage

There are 7 areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

3 Prime and 4 Specific.

The prime areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

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

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

: Literacy : Mathematics :

: Understanding the world : Expressive Arts and Design :

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. This only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together.

Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding .

Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – for example visiting parks, libraries and museums In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

These aspects of the EYFS reflect the different ways in which children learn and give practitioners guidance on supporting these.

Playing and Exploring

This is about how children engage with a range of experiences. It includes finding out and exploring, playing with things they already know and having a go at new experiences.

Active Learning

This focuses on children's motivation to learn. It looks at how they are willing to get involved, concentrate and keep on trying to master new things. It also includes their sense of pride and enjoyment in their learning.

Creating and Thinking Critically

This aspect is about the child's own thinking. It covers how to make links in their learning, choose their own way to do things and have their own ideas. All skills vital for problem solving.