

“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential” (EYFS, 2014, p.5)

The Early Years Curriculum has been revised and will be implemented from September 2012. Please find below some information about the new curriculum.

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of Learning and Development all with a strong emphasis on **learning through play**. All areas are interconnected to characteristics of effective learning which are:

- **Playing and Exploring**
- **Active Learning**
- **Creating and thinking critically**

All areas of learning within the Development Matters document are underpinned by four guiding themes and their principles:

- **The unique child**
- **Positive Relationships**
- **Enabling environments**
- **Learning and Development**

The areas are:

Prime Areas (these work together to support development in all other areas)

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

Specific Areas (essential skills and knowledge)

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Putting into Practise

PSED

We aim to help the children to develop a positive sense of themselves whilst building positive relationships and developing respect for others. We provide a variety of opportunities to enable the children to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings and to have confidence in their own abilities. All children will be encouraged to increase their independence skills, whilst developing a positive attitude to learning.

Communication and Language

Through our topics we aim to provide the children with 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. The children are encouraged to listen attentively, talk about their experiences and use language in a variety of ways to communicate with adults and peers.

Physical Development

We aim to provide opportunities for the children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement through a wide variety of indoor and outdoor experiences. Children will be taught to move confidently and imaginatively with increasing control and coordination during outdoor play activities and in P.E. lessons. They will develop increasing skill and control with small apparatus such as bats, balls, hoops, beanbags and quoits. Fine motor control will be developed using tools, scissors, small construction equipment and malleable materials. We will also help the children to understand the importance of physical activity and talk about how to keep healthy.

Literacy

This area of the curriculum incorporates both reading and writing. Through daily phonic sessions we encourage the children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Together we explore a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

Mathematics

We aim to provide children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers. We use a variety of stories, songs, games and practical activities to teach children concepts such as calculating, simple addition and subtraction problems. Together we explore shape, space and measure in our everyday environment, encouraging the children to use mathematical language to describe and compare shapes, position, size and quantity.

Understanding of the world

This area of learning develops the children's understanding of the environment, people around them and features of the natural and man-made world. Children will be encouraged to be curious, ask questions, investigate and explore different aspects of the world around them. We aim to provide a wide variety of opportunities to enable children to make sense of their world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas and feelings using a wide range of media and materials and through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.