



Welcome to Nunnery Wood Primary School

A Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage for Parents & Carers

Children in Reception follow the curriculum known as the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' which sets the framework for learning for all children from birth to 5. In September 2012 the curriculum changed and a new framework was been introduced – now with **7 Areas of Learning**.

3 of the areas, called ***the prime areas***, are particularly important for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. They are:



Communication & Language (C&L)



Physical Development (PD)



Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

The 4 other areas of learning are known as ***the specific areas***; they are:



Literacy



Maths



Understanding the World (UtW)



Expressive Arts & Design (EAD)

How the 7 Areas of Learning are taught in Reception:

Each area of learning is implemented through **planned, purposeful play** and through a mix of **adult-led** and **child-initiated** activities.



Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.



Teaching encourages the '**Characteristics of Effective Learning**' –

playing and exploring (children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go');
active learning (children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements); and

creativity and critical thinking (children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.)

The 7 Areas of Learning

The Prime Areas



Communication and language - 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.

How you can help: *make time to talk and listen to your child about what they are doing. Ask simple questions using the words 'why?' and 'how?' when talking. Give your child simple instructions to follow. Read and talk about stories at bed time! Join in with making up and acting out real and imaginary stories and events using puppets, masks, dressing up, dolls, dinosaurs, cars, play mobil models and characters.... the list is endless!_Play games that get your child to listen, concentrate, follow instructions and talk – all games do this!*



Physical development - involves providing opportunities for children to be active and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement in large and small movements, using tools and writing equipment properly.. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

- **How you can help:** *encourage your child to get dressed, go to the toilet by themselves and wash hands afterwards. Talk about healthy food choices and allow them to help with simple food preparation. Go swimming, play football, learn to ride a bike, throw and catch balls, learn to skip, play with construction kits, such as lego, Knex, or play dough. Get your child to use safe child scissors and other art tools themselves at home in art activities – with your supervision of course.*



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.

How you can help: *play games that involve turn taking and sharing. Talk about feelings – what makes your child, and other people/children happy or sad. Encourage and praise all good behaviours and talk to your child about feeling proud about themselves when they have achieved something. Establish good routines for bedtime etc.*

The Specific Areas



Literacy - Reading and Writing involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children need to be able to talk about what they have read and answer simple questions about stories. It is important for children to experience a wide range of books and writing – stories, information, instructions, letters, lists, labels, signs etc.

How you can help: *supporting your child with phonics – practise the phonic sound cards and tricky words learnt at school. Read with your child every day and talk about the books and stories afterwards. Sing nursery rhymes and songs. Set up a 'mark making area/ writing area at home to*

role play writing – such as keeping old birthday cards, notepads, diaries; make an office, a shop, builders yard. Encourage your child to 'have a go' at their writing using their phonic skills.



Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers up to 20, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems within 10; to describe shapes and measures including money, time, two and three dimensional shapes; make and describe patterns; use everyday words to talk about length, weight and capacity and understand and use simple words that describe position and direction.

- **How you can help:** learn and sing number songs, play games that involve numbers and counting, point out and talk about numbers you see when you are out and about and at home, make up your own adding and taking away problems in everyday activities e.g. 'I can see 5 cars in your garage, if I add 2 more how many will there be?', make and talk about patterns, find and talk about shapes around you, find opportunities to talk about weighing and measuring e.g. cooking and baking, filling and emptying pots and pans when washing up, measuring feet for new shoes!, talk about coins and money when out shopping or sorting pocket money.



Understanding the world involves children making sense of the world around them and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

How you can help: talk about special events in the past (Birthdays, Christmas, Eid, Onam etc.) Go out for walks and talk about the changes in the weather and the seasons and different things that you see. Use technology in the home (dvd players, cd players, laptops, digital cameras). Find out about different people, places and animals when you are on holiday or visiting somewhere new. Make collections of special things that interest your child e.g. shells, fossils, feathers, dinosaurs!

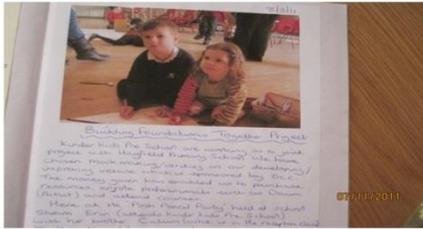


Expressive arts and design involves supporting children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as opportunities and encouragement for children to develop their imagination, thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play,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

How you can help: encourage any singing and dancing! Create role play areas and dens outside. Keep 'junk' boxes for model making and ideas. Create stories with your child as they play with their toys; use a favourite story as a starting point and act it out...perhaps you could think of a different ending or version e.g. your own Bear Hunt in the garden. Paint and draw together – you can always use brushes with water outside on hot days for painting' on patios! Make a supply of play dough for model making. Keep a look out for any 'art and craft activities' in and around Worcester during holiday time – the countryside centre usually has lots on at a minimal cost.

Learning Journeys:

Each child has their own 'Learning Journey' where records are kept of their achievement and attainment in the 7 Areas of Learning. These records take the form of photographs, observations, evidence of children's work and, of course, your parental input. We share your child's Learning Journey with you at regular intervals during the year.



My Learning Journey Book
I did lots of mark-making and writing
with my brother Calum



Assessment

Ongoing assessment is a vital part of the learning and development process. It involves adults working with your child observing them to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations. A detailed assessment picture of your child is built up over the year with your input forming an important part of the process. We invite you to come to 'Look & Learn' sessions in order that you can see how the Areas of Learning are taught and explored and that you can also contribute to your child's 'Learning Journey' with 'wow' moments and photographs that you have brought from home.

In Reception parents and carers are invited to termly parents appointments to discuss your child's individual progress and 'next steps' in learning, so that you can help support their learning at home.

At the end of Reception all of the children will have been assessed using the EYFS profile which details the children's achievement against the Early Learning Goals in each of the 7 Areas of Learning, as well as identifying areas for further support. This profile is shared with parents and your child's next teacher before the children move onto Year One – where their learning journey continues!



You can find the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the early learning goals at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

Emma Cother – Early Years Team Leader
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