

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage begins at birth and children continue to make progress towards the Early Learning Goals in their first year at school.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is based on seven (three prime and four specific) areas of learning and development. The three prime areas of learning are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These are:

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

The four specific areas are:

- **Literacy** - children link letters and sounds and begin to read and write
- **Mathematics** - children develop number sense, calculate, problem solve and learn about shape, space and measure
- **Understanding the World** - children 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** - children explore a wide range of media and materials, as well as share thoughts, ideas and feelings through a range of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, design and technology

Learning through play, both in the indoor and outdoor classrooms is vital in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Through play, children can practise, learn and refine their skills, think for themselves, take risks and make mistakes, explore new concepts, and learn to work with others.

