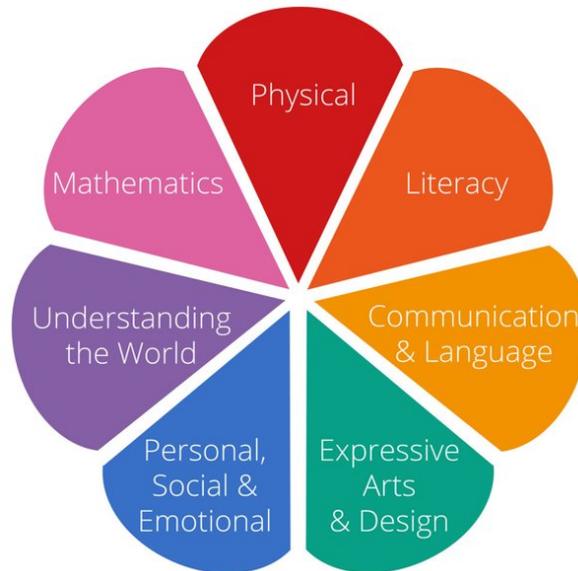


## Our Early Years Curriculum

The children within our Early Years (Nursery and Reception) learn through a range of self-selected, play-based opportunities as well as adult led and independent activities. Teachers carefully plan ways to incorporate children's skills and development under the characteristics of effective learning by providing opportunities to support playing and exploring, active learning and creating & thinking critically. This is done by structuring the learning around the 7 Areas of Learning outlined in the EY Curriculum:



### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This area of learning provides opportunities for children to develop positive attitudes about themselves and those around them. We want children to become valued members of the class and shape their identity through an increasing awareness of their own needs and the needs of others. Teachers will support children to develop positive learning attitudes, to be cooperative and communicative. We support children's development of social skills by providing opportunities that enable children to learn how to socially respond and work with one another.

### Physical Development

This area of learning offers opportunities for children to develop and practise the control they have over their own bodies. It allows for them to further develop the confidence and skill in gross motor movements such as running jumping, climbing etc. Learning in this area develops and promotes children's spatial awareness and coordination as well as encouraging their fine motor skills and development. Activities that support finer movements include digging, painting, mark-making and writing opportunities. We also focus on developing an understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to be healthy and safe.

### Communication & Language Development

This area of learning provides opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to talk confidently and develop new vocabulary. They learn how to respond to their peers and adults in an environment where speaking and listening skills are highly valued. Our learning environments gives opportunities for all children to explore, enjoy, learn about and use words in a broad range of contexts including stories, role play and drama.

### **Literacy Development**

This area of learning supports children to link sounds to letters and help them to understand that from this we can read and write. Children will begin to recognise print in their environment and start to understand that this is one way of communicating with one another. It is vital that children understand that print carries meaning. We promote the importance of reading and writing in a variety of ways including through stories, songs, poetry, mark marking and writing. Each classroom has a reading area as well as lots of opportunities for developing independent reading and writing activities. In Reception we teach phonics on a daily basis and use the Letters and Sounds programme of study.

### **Mathematical Development**

This area of learning provides opportunities for children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape & space by providing a broad range of contexts. We encourage children to understand and respond to the symbols that represent numbers and what they mean in real contexts. We use a 'Maths Mastery' approach to our teaching of maths which means children acquire a deep, long-term, secure understanding of this subject.

### **Knowledge and Understanding Development**

In this area of learning children learn to solve problems, question, make decisions, experiment, predict and plan in a variety of contexts and to explore and find out about their environment. It helps to develop their sense and understanding of the physical world. By engaging with the world around them, the children learn more about people and the local and wider communities that surround them. Children will also explore the impact of technology on their everyday lives.

### **Creative, Expressive Arts Development**

This area of learning offers opportunities for children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art, design & technology, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role-play activities. The children experiment with different media, resources and a wide range of activities aimed to inspire and stimulate their creativity and encourage them to take ownership of their learning.