



## Early Years Curriculum Overview

### The Characteristics of Effective Learning

The children develop a range of characteristics which underpin their learning and development across all areas and support the child to be effective and motivated learners. These characteristics are:

- **Playing and exploring** – children investigate and explore, being willing to ‘have a go’.
- **Active learning** – children are actively involved in their learning, resilient and celebrate personal achievements.
- **Creating and thinking critically** – children develop their own ideas, making links and evaluating their own learning.

### The Areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development. These are split into 2 areas – prime and specific.

The three Prime Areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development and
- Personal, social and emotional development

There are four Specific Areas which build on the three Prime Areas. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** helps children to develop a positive sense of self as well as forming positive relationships with both the adults and children around them. They will develop social skills, learning how to appropriately manage their feelings and understand the rules and boundaries of their surroundings.

**Communication and Language** involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment. The children will develop their confidence and expressive language skills enabling them to express themselves and to speak and listen in a range of one to one and group situations. This is a

skill which runs through every area of child-initiated provision as well as through direct teaching and adult led activities.

**Physical development** involves providing opportunities for children to be active, developing their gross and fine motor co-ordination, control and movement. Children are helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food. Children are encouraged to develop the co-ordination necessary to become skilled and confident writers.

**Literacy** allows the children to develop an interest in written and spoken word, leading to early writing and reading skills. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems and other written materials) to ignite their interest. Literacy is given a particular focus during phonics sessions where the children are taught to recognise, hear and form letters. In Reception the focus is on blending and segmenting sounds for reading and writing.

**Mathematics** allows the children to develop a secure sense of what a number is in both the concrete and abstract sense. The children are provided with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers in a number rich environment. They are encouraged to become problem solvers, able to use their mathematical skills in real life situations including using weight, capacity, distance, time and money.

**Understanding the world** encourages the children to make sense of the world around them and their community, providing opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and the environment. The children are given the opportunity to explore and use a range of technology including computers, technological toys and cameras for a specific purpose.

**Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and use a wide range of media and materials, experimenting with colour, design and texture. The children are encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, song, music, movement, dance and role-play.

The experiences that we provide our children enable them to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning.