



OUR CURRICULUM



THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

THE PRIME AREAS

Communication and Language

The development of communication and language is closely linked with physical, social, and emotional experiences. It creates a foundation for learning and development, guiding and supporting children's thinking while also playing a crucial role in their emerging literacy. Children go through a series of identifiable stages in their language development, which can be categorised into three aspects - Listening and Attention, Understanding, and Speaking.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development is a crucial aspect of lifelong learning and growth, and plays a vital role in the well-being and resilience of children. In order for young children to thrive, it is essential to pay attention to their self-perception, emotional awareness, and the quality of their relationships with others. How they perceive themselves, understand their emotions, and feel secure in close relationships can greatly impact their self-confidence, their potential to experience joy, curiosity, and wonder, their ability to solve problems, and their capacity to think and learn.

Physical Development

During early childhood, having extensive physical experiences helps in building the neurological, sensory, and motor foundations that are necessary for feeling good in one's body and comfortable in the world. Both fine and gross motor control must develop together so that the child can achieve their goals effectively.

THE SPECIFIC AREAS

Literacy

Early literacy skills are developed through enjoyable experiences such as gesturing, talking, singing, playing, reading and writing. These experiences help children interpret, create and communicate meaning through different media, including picture books, logos, environmental print, and digital technologies.

Mathematics

Mathematics is a subject that helps children develop their own understanding of number, quantity, shape, and space. From a very young age, children are curious about quantities and spatial relations. They are natural problem-solvers, pattern-spotters, and sense-makers. To support their learning, children should be encouraged to explore their mathematical thinking freely through gesture, talk, manipulation of objects, and graphical signs and representations. They should also have access to graphic tools in their pretend play to further enhance their understanding of mathematical concepts.

Understanding the World

Understanding the World is a process that helps children comprehend the world and their role in it. This process nurtures their sense of wonder, curiosity, agency, and drive to explore. It involves frequent and direct interaction with the natural, built, and virtual environments surrounding the child. Collaborative activities that promote inquiry, problem-solving, shared decision-making, and scientific approaches to understanding the world are also essential to this process.

Expressive Arts and Design

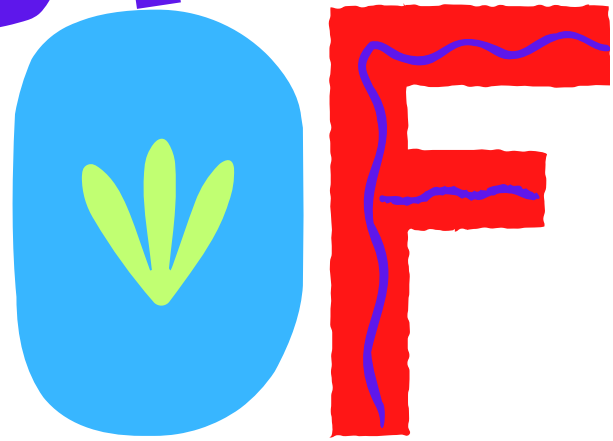
Children have multiple ways to express and communicate their thoughts and feelings, including through music, movement, and a variety of materials. Creative thinking involves original responses, rather than just copying or imitating existing artwork. Expressive Arts and Design helps cultivate imagination, curiosity, creativity, cognition, critical thinking, and experimentation. It also provides opportunities for children to improvise, collaborate, interact, and engage in sustained shared thinking.



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THE CHARACTERISTICS



EFFECTIVE LEARNING

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the Prime and Specific Areas of Learning and Development are all inter-connected. The EYFS identifies various elements of learning to simplify the complex learning process. However, children's learning is not compartmentalised, and they use many or all of these elements simultaneously while interacting with people and objects. The Characteristics of Effective Learning describe the behaviors that children use to learn. To learn effectively, children must approach opportunities with curiosity, energy, and enthusiasm.

Effective learning must be meaningful to children, so they can use what they've learned and apply it in new situations. These abilities and attitudes of strong learners will help them learn well and make good progress in all Areas of Learning and Development.

Characteristics of Effective Learning	Areas of Learning and Development	Birth to 5 Matters Aspects
Playing and Exploring ENGAGEMENT Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to 'have a go'	Prime Areas Personal, Social and Emotional Development Physical Development Communication and Language	Making Relationships Sense of Self Understanding Feelings Moving and handling Health and Self-care Listening and Attention Understanding Speaking
Active Learning MOTIVATION Being involved and concentrating Keep trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do	Specific Areas Literacy Mathematics Understanding the World Expressive Arts and Design	Reading Writing Mathematics People and Communities The World Technology Creating with Materials Being Imaginative and Expressive
Creative and Critical Thinking THINKING Having their own ideas Making links Working with ideas		

Playing and exploring is one of the Characteristics of Effective Learning. Children investigate and experience things by having a go. Children who actively participate in their own play develop a larger store of information and experiences to draw on, which positively supports their learning.

Active Learning is the second characteristic of effective learning categories. Children who encounter difficulties while learning tend to concentrate and keep trying until they achieve their goals. They feel proud of their achievements. To become self-regulating, lifelong learners, children must take ownership, accept challenges, and learn to persist. Creating and thinking critically the third subheading, is an essential skill for children to develop. They learn to develop their ideas and make connections between them. They think flexibly and rationally, drawing upon their past experiences to solve problems and reach conclusions.

(information source

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/overview-characteristics-of-effective-learning-and-areas-of-learning-and-development/>)

