

Learning in Reception Class



In school your children will be taught skills through these 7 areas:

- **Communication and language** development 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.
- **Physical** development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and both fine and gross motor movement. Children will also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food and exercise.
- **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.
- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters, to blend sounds and begin to read and to segment sounds to begin to write. Children will be prompted to notice print in the environment, begin to recognise common/irregular words and will have access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures, with an emphasis on using concrete resources in practical situations.
- **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to 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** involves enabling children to explore a wide range of media and materials to encourage the sharing of thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Understanding progress in Early Years: A guide for parents

What you can do at home to help your child make progress:

- Walk upstairs and count the steps, explore cupboards, talk about what you find, complete jigsaws with your child.
- Tidy up, stack pots and pans, set the table for dinner.
- Play 'counting on' games that use a dice, such as Snakes & Ladders
- Look at and talk about the shapes you see when going for a walk, count the steps between shops or trees, use '1 2 3, Go!' in the park.
- Collect objects (leaves, pebbles), count them, sort them, match them.
- Grow plants, talk about their height, measure them.
- Set up a 'shop' - play with real coins, 1ps and 2ps to begin with.
- Hide toys and give clues using words such as inside, behind, next to.
- Bathtime - count ducks, boats, fish, toes, fill bottles and jugs and talk about empty, full, small and big.
- Count objects around the home such as pairs of socks.
- Write a shopping list, say out loud what you are writing and allow your child to make their own. Don't worry if it cannot be read - making marks on paper is a vital stage of writing and if it is valued and seen as fun then children will continue to learn to write.
- Sing nursery rhymes, share poems.
- Read to your child regularly.
- Point out print in the environment, e.g. on packaging.
- Paint, draw, chalk mark, make patterns in the sand using stones.
- Cook - talk through the recipes.
- Use puppets to tell stories.
- Use their name to label paintings/their room.
- Please ensure your child holds their pen or pencil correctly when writing. Encourage them to correct it if they are not. Write in lower case letters.
- Use letter sounds, rather than names when reading words. E.g. S is 'sss' rather than 'ess'.

