

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE INFORMATION

### What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It sets the standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old and ensures that your child will learn and develop well and be kept healthy and safe. It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play and active learning and is the same curriculum as in reception classes in school.

### What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

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

There are **four specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

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

We will consider your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences. You can help us to do this by sharing your observations of your child's interests at home.

There are also three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

These tell us about *how* each child learns not *what* they are learning

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

The new curriculum gives us the opportunity to spend *more* time interacting and playing with your children as we are now not expected to complete as many written observations and assessments on children. We will know your children very well and be able to share observations verbally with you. We choose to use Tapestry at preschool and enjoy sharing photos with you

of your children, it will often just be a photo and a title to give you a snapshot of what they've been doing. We would love it if you could use Tapestry at home too to share what your child does at home with us, this helps to build the relationship between us and home. The children love sharing photos of themselves with us and their friends and it develops their communication skills as they tell us about them. It doesn't have to be anything exciting, just something simple that they enjoy doing at home.

### **What can you do to help your child?**

- Chat, play and read to and with them
- Encourage them to be independent
- Play board games with them
- Have a look at [What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents](#) this guides parents through what to expect with their child's development. It aligns with the areas of learning that we use at preschool

There is a focus on early language and extending vocabulary. You can help us do this by:

- Having quality learning conversations and interactions with your child
- Reading a range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts
- Teaching your child new words and vocabulary
- Sharing what you are doing with your child at home

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to us.

