4. Learning and Development

Recognising that children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates, and that all areas of learning and development are equally important and inter-connected.

Children are competent learners from birth, they develop and learn in a wide variety of ways. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. We aim to foster the characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and exploring,
- Active learning and
- Creating and thinking skills.

The EYFS is divided into two areas. The **Prime areas** which develop in response to relationships and experiences; they support learning in all other areas:

- Personal Social and Emotional Development;
- Communication and Language;
- Physical Development.

The **Specific areas** include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Why are the years from birth to five so special?

The years from birth to five see the greatest growth and learning of all children.

- To be in good health;
- To be happy;
- To feel safe;
- To be successful.

Early learning is the key to your child's future and families make the greatest difference at this stage.

What can parents and carers do?

Parents and carers are their children's first teachers. When they are with you learning can happen at any time and anywhere, for example through:

- Being generous with praise and cuddles;
- Reading together;
- Playing games, singing nursery rhymes;
- Talking about what you can see in the park or on the street;
- Counting the stairs as you go up and down.

Children do best when parents and professionals work together.

It is important to remember that you know more about your own child than anyone else. Please let us know about your child's achievements at home; it will help us to plan to meet your child's needs successfully.

The part you play in their learning and the choices you make will make a difference to their future.

For more information:
www.foundationyears.org.uk

XXX Nursery

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Information for Parents and Carers

Contact: xxxxx

Early Years Foundation Stage

The overarching aim of the EYFS is to help young children achieve *the five Every Child Matters outcomes* of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being.

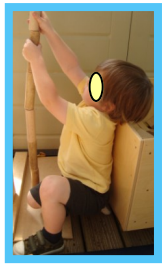
The EYFS is the stage your child is in when they attend a setting between birth and the age of five. It is also the stage that they are in until the end of the Reception year at School.

It describes how your child should be kept safe and cared for and how all concerned can make sure that your child achieves the most that they can in their earliest years of life.

It is based on four important principles.

1. A Unique Child

Recognising that every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self- assured. The commitments are focused around development; inclusion; safety; and health and well-being.



2. Positive Relationships

This describes how children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person. The commitments are focused around respect; partnership with parents; supporting learning; and the role of the key person.

3. Enabling Environments

Enabling Environments explains that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

The commitments are focused around observation, assessment and planning; support for every child; the learning environment; and the wider context – transitions, continuity, and multi-agency working.