

Nursery Curriculum Overview 2025 -2026

The curriculum in the Early Years Foundation Stage draws from the Development Matters Statements Framework (DfE) to plan for the learning and development of the children. The statements below provide a sequence that enables planning for progression and next steps in learning across the year. School subject curriculum approaches also inform the learning experiences for children. We recognise the importance of providing a child based approach to learning and responding to individual needs and interests. This may mean that some of the statements below could be taught across the whole year, as well as being regularly revisited in recognition of their vital role in developing the child. Teachers will carefully use the statements below to plan rich, play-based and direct teaching learning activities that help children to receive a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Early Years Curriculum is divided into two areas of learning:

Prime Areas of Development: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development **Specific Areas of Development** Literacy, Mathematical Development, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design

'The Characteristics of Effective Learning'.

These underpin the approach to teaching and learning describe the behaviours children use to help them learn. They are:

Playing and Learning: Investigate and experience things, and 'have a go

Creative and Critical Thinking: Have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things **Active Learning**: Concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.

Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Skills Builder	Listening Aim: to hear and understand things that other people say to us. Useful Resources: listening skill story; skill challenges Skill Text: Finn and Fran	Speaking Aim: to clearly tell others new information or ideas Useful Resources: speaking skill story; skill challenges Skill Text: Gina Finds Her Voice	Teamwork Aim: to work well with others. Useful Resources: teamwork skill story; skill challenges Skill Text: The Treasure Hunt	Problem Solving Aim: to complete tasks we are given. Useful Resources: problem solving skill story; skill challenges Skill Text:Tilda Tries Again	Creativity Aim: to use our imagination and come up with new ideas Useful Resources: creativity skill story; skill challenges Skill Text: Jake the Snake	Recap / preparation for Reception
Topics	All About Me	Woodland	People Who Help Us	Wild Animals	In The Garden	Growth and Change
Personal Social and Emotional Development	Select and use activities and resources with help when needed.	Extend and elaborate play ideas.	Develop their sense of responsibility. Increasingly follow rules.	Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people. Show more confidence in social situations.	Talk about feelings using words like 'happy' and 'sad'.	Develop appropriate ways of being assertive. Talk with others to solve conflicts.

	Play with one or more other children. Be increasingly independent in meeting care needs like using the toilet	Develop their sense of membership to a community.	Not always need an adult to remind them of a rule. Make healthy choices about food, drink and tooth brushing.		Begin to understand how others might be feeling. Help to find solutions to conflicts.	
Physical Development See whole school PE overview for discrete sessions.	Develop movements like balancing, riding scooters/bikes. Start to eat independently using a knife and fork. With support try a range of activities to develop fine motor skills	Use large scale movements. (flags/brushes/ribbons etc) Show a preference for a dominant hand. Choose the right resource to carry out a plan ie a spade.	Go up steps and stairs using alternate feet. Be increasingly independent ie putting coats and shoes on/zips.	Use one handed tools. For example, make snips with scissors. Collaborate with others to manage large items like moving planks. Match their developing skills to tasks like whether to crawl or walk on a plank.	Take part in some group activities which they make up themselves. Use and remember sequences of movements. Increasing control to use classroom tools like playdough rollers.	Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. Skip, hop and stand on one leg for a game.
Communication and Language	=				d rhymes. They will join in with skills will also help to develop Be able to talk about familiar books. Use longer sentences of 4 to 6 words.	=
Literacy [See separate plan for phonics activities and progression]	Engage in conversations about stories. Experience a range of books. Begin to learn new vocabulary Develop the concept that print has meaning.	Develop the concept that print has meaning. Experience a range of books and explore new words. Talk about ideas in a story that reflect diversity of experience.	Know that print can have different purposes. Learn to turn the pages in a book from left to right. Write some of their name Count or clap syllables in a word.	Recognise words with the same initial sound. Write some or all of their name Use some of their print knowledge in their early writing	Spot and suggest rhymes. Write some or all of their name. Write some letters accurately. Learn about the different parts of a book and page sequencing Use some of their print knowledge in their early writing.	Spot and suggest rhymes. Write some or all of their name. Write some letters accurately. Talk about their writing using their print knowledge
Core texts	So Much Going on a Bear Hunt	Owl Babies The Gruffalo	Busy People Series	Handa's Surprise Dear Zoo	The Three Billy Goats Gruff The Tiny Seed	Little Red Hen.

				Non - fiction animal books		The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Texts to support topic discussion	Hair Love Brown Boy Joy The Skin You Live In Marvellous Me Lulu's First Day All Are Welcome Non – fiction: All About Families [Usborne] Who's in my family -All about our families.	Who's Hiding in the Woods? Let it Fall How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin? We're going on a leaf hunt Fall Leaves Non – fiction: What can you see in Autumn? A Seed is Sleepy	When I grow up I want to be Lola at the Library Look Up Non – fiction: People who help us – Fire Fighters People who help us – Police	The Lion Inside What the Elephant Heard We all went on Safari Who's Hiding in the Jungle? Wild Wow 5 Wild Animals The Selfish Crocodile – Elmer Non Fiction Amazing Animals – First facts Hello Wild animals – A first book of animal facts	Jasper's Beanstalk Lola plants a Garden Planting a Rainbow Errol's Garden Green Green- Community Garden Non fiction: How a Seed Grows In my Garden – National Geographic Lift and look bees/bugs Minibeasts – My first book of nature	A Chair for Baby Bear What will you be? Kindness makes us Strong Katie can Change the World Non Fiction All About Weather Titch Goldilocks
Maths	Recite numbers past 5. Say one number for each item in order 1 2 3 4 5 Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes. (Focus shape circle.) Using words like flat/round. Understand position using words like under/behind. Make comparisons between objects relating to weight	Recite numbers past 5. Say one number for each item in order 1 2 3 4 5 Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes. (Focus shape triangle.) Using words like corners. Understand position using words like under/behind. Compare quantities using language like more/ less. Make comparisons between objects relating to length	Know that the last number reached when counting objects tells you how many there are (Cardinal principle) Show finger numbers up to 5 Fast recognition of up to 3 objects (subitising) Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (focus shape square) using words like sides. Describe a familiar route. Make comparisons between objects relating to capacity.	Know that the last number reached when counting objects tells you how many there are.(Cardinal principle) Fast recognition of up to 3 objects (subitising) Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (focus shape rectangle) using words like straight. Select shapes appropriately for building. Talk about and identify patterns around them like 'spotty' and 'blobs.' Review weight.	Link numerals and amounts. eg collecting a set of objects to match numerals up to 5. Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. Combine shapes to make new ones. Extend and create repeating patterns like stick/leaf/stick/leaf. Review length.	Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5. Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern. Begin to describe a sequence of events using words like first/then. Review capacity.

Understanding the World	Begin to make sense of their own life story and family's history. Use all their senses to explore natural materials.	Talk about what they see using a wide vocabulary. Explore collections of materials with similar or different properties. Use all their senses to explore natural materials. Plant seeds and care for growing plants.	differen Explore different feel (ma Explore h	an interest in it occupations. and talk about forces they can agnets, water). ow things work. gs/pulleys)	Talk about what Know that th different count world Talk about dif they see in p	ere are ries in the ferences	Plant seeds and care growing plants. Understand the key features of the life cyc a plant and an anima Begin to understand need to respect and confor the natural environment and livithings.	y le of al. the are	Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.
Expressive Arts and Design	Sing the melodic shape of familiar songs. Take part in simple pretend play. Explore different materials freely to explore how to use them. Explore colour mixing	Sing the melodic shape of familiar songs. Take part in simple pretend play. Explore different materials freely to explore how to use them. Create closed shapes and lines to represent objects. Explore colour mixing.	one Listen v attenti Make im V Develop f Draw w	e a song around they know. vith increased on to sounds. aginative small worlds. their own ideas or play. vith increasing mplexity.	Listen with in attention to some Make imaginate worlds with blue constructed. Develop their conduction and decide materials to complex	sounds. tive small ocks and tion. own ideas which o use. creasing	Remember and sing er songs Respond to what the have heard expressing their thoughts and feelings. Begin to develop complete using small we explore joining different materials and texture. Use drawing to represside as. Show different emotion their drawings and paintings.	ey ng plex orld. ent ess. sent	Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person. Continue to develop complex stories using small world and props. Join different materials and explore different textures. Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings.
Computing	lives and the people who Over the ye	er Talk about the differe	continuous oundational through sto EY ent pieces y may find hey may	provision they wi knowledge of cor ories such as Jessie IT- Digit Take a pho ipad/o I can explain wh ph Use technology Use listen	ll explore everyda nputational thinki	y technologo ng, compute iDuck / Smar Compa	y and show curiosity as t er science skills, ict skills	o its p and di as disc C Fo Exp	urpose and how it works. gital literacy.