

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum is divided into three Prime Areas and four Specific Areas.

The Prime Areas are:

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The Specific Areas are:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding of the World
Expressive Arts and Design

This does not, however, mean that your child's learning will be divided up into areas. One experience may provide a child with opportunities to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning.

Here at Brereton we aim to make the children's learning as interesting and stimulating as we possibly can. Children learn best when they don't even think they are learning. We will provide your child with a wide range of learning experiences and will encourage them to continue their own learning through play-based activities. The EYFS Curriculum emphasises the need for a balance between teacher-led activities and child initiated activities. Above all, we aim to create a safe, interesting and welcoming environment, where your child can enjoy learning and have fun.



Mathematics

This area of learning is split into two areas. **Number** includes learning to recognise and write numbers and count out a given number of objects. They learn to say number names in order and order a set of number cards. Children will also learn about finding one more and one less than a given number, simple addition and simple subtraction. They will also solve problems such as doubling, halving and sharing. This will be done through number rhymes and songs as well as practical activities.

Shape, Space and Measure covers things like patterns, positional language and naming 2D and 3D shapes. It also looks at the language associated with measurement such as big, small, tall, long, short, heavy, light etc. Children will also learn about time and money. These objectives are also explored through practical activities, games and simple problem solving activities.

Mathematics within the Home

- Look at numbers when going on a walk.
- Look at coins together when shopping.
- Sing number songs together.
- Talk about the order in which you are going to do things.
- Play board games.
- Use objects to complete little addition and subtraction activities together.
- When baking encourage your child to tell you to stop when you get to a given number.
- Encourage the use of language associated with measurement. E.g. When carrying the shopping, which bag is heavier, lighter? Which bottle will hold more or less?
- Play with different sized containers in the bath.
- Use clocks and watches to establish times of the day (bedtime, leave for school etc.).



Communication and Language

This area of learning includes listening and attention, understanding and speaking. The children will be given a wide range of experiences to promote their communication. A role play area linked to the topic is included in the classroom to promote children's speaking and listening. Children will listen to stories daily and will be able to answer questions as well as ask their own. They will retell events and stories and listen to others speak and be able to follow instructions.

Literacy

In this area of learning children beginning to read a wide range of books and write for a variety of purposes. Children will have daily phonics sessions where they will be taught sounds and High Frequency Words. They will then apply this learning in a range of reading and writing activities. A quiet area is included within the classroom and outdoors for children to explore books independently and have stories read to them. Independent mark making and writing is encouraged through a range of activities, in every area of the classroom.

Communication and Language and Literacy Development within the Home

- Play story and rhyme tapes for them to listen to and join in with.
- Play sound lotto games together.
- Join in with their imaginary play, take on the role of different characters and introduce new vocabulary.
- Sing songs and rhymes together talking about the rhyming words.
- Play eye spy.
- Look at print around you in the environment. E.g. road signs, supermarket labels.
- Read and share a variety of books.
- Sing rhymes and songs.
- Use jigsaws for word and picture matching.
- Use magnetic letters to make words.
- Provide various writing materials. E.g. chalkboards and chalk, crayons, pencils, paints.
- Make labels to go with models they have made.
- Encourage your child to write their own name on a letter or a card.



Physical Development



In this area of learning, children are given the opportunity to be active and to improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement. They will use all of their senses to learn about the world around them and to make connections between new information and what they already know. They will develop an understanding of the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food. They will also learn how to keep themselves safe.

The children will be encouraged to talk about what they are doing and think about how they can improve their actions or movements. They will develop gross motor skills using small and large equipment such as the bikes, climbing equipment and balance resources. Their fine motor skill development will be encouraged by using scissors, threading and handling a variety of tools, objects and malleable materials. Through Topic work and PE lessons they will learn about the importance of exercise, a balanced diet and staying healthy and safe.

Physical Development within the Home

- Experiment with different ways of moving, dance to any music!
- Go on family bike rides.
- Visit the local playground.
- Manipulate materials and objects by picking up, releasing, arranging, threading and posting them.
- Provide objects that can be handled safely, including 'small world' toys, construction sets, dolls' clothes, material for collage and shapes.
- Practice using scissors by cutting along lines.
- Encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly.
- Encourage children to enjoy a balanced diet and talk about why we eat particular foods.
- Encourage them to look after themselves (brushing their teeth, washing their hands).



Understanding of the World

In this area of learning children will be supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. Their learning will be supported through offering Opportunities: to talk about their home life and their experiences and traditions; encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real-life situations; undertake practical 'experiments'; and work with a range of materials.

The children will be given a wide range of experiences to promote their investigative skills through exploring objects and materials, they will learn about change and patterns, similarities and differences, and question how and why things work. They will also begin to understand about their own and other people's cultures and to celebrate the similarities and differences between them in a diverse society.

Understanding of the World within the Home

- Investigate the natural world.
- Go on a bug hunt.
- Go on a walk and discuss the environment.
- Discuss members of the family and family events past and present.
- Explore different types of technology. For example computers, programmable toys.
- Talk about similarities, differences and changes (what happens to the ice cream when it isn't in the freezer etc)
- Encourage them to ask questions.
- Celebrate their own family culture and traditions (ie by sending Christmas cards.) and the culture of others.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of the curriculum is concerned with all aspects of children's personal, social and emotional development and plays an important part in preparing children for life, both inside and outside the classroom. It provides children with the experiences and support to develop a positive sense of themselves and those around them. Successful personal, social and emotional development is crucial for young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.

Children will be encouraged to try new activities and select and use resources and activities independently. They will be encouraged to talk about their own feelings and how their actions may affect the feelings of others.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development within the Home

- To encourage sharing with others.
- To take turns in game situations.
- To participate in role play, act out favourite stories.
- Discuss actions, consequences and emotions of book characters
- To encourage respect and caring of toys and objects.