

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, storytelling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional wellbeing. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination which is later linked to early literacy. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practise of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Educational Programmes

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and ten-frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them - from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society, such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.

Communication & Language

Introduce new language relating to the theme:

Listen to longer stories

Matching games

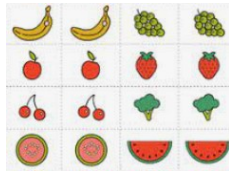
Repeating refrains in stories

Listening: Eric Carle

Animation stories

Minibeast vocabulary

Rhyming poems



Understanding the World

Zoo Lab visit

Minibeast hunt

Ugly Bugs Ball/Masks

Life cycle: caterpillar

Growing caterpillars and releasing

Fruit bus (Children Centre)

CBeebies: explorers



Mathematics

Symmetry

Patterns

Counting legs on minibeasts and marking

Sorting insects/characteristics

Venn diagrams

Insect Bingo

Counting songs

Sequencing

Subitising to 3 using ladybird spots



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Key Groups

Class Rules and Boundaries

Zones of Regulation: Model empathy and concern

Kindness and looking after your environment: indoor and outdoors

Yoga Bears

Peer Massage

Snack Time

Sensory activities: flowers and rotten fruit

Healthy Eating: fruit tasting



Nursery (Red Room)

Summer 1

Can we explore it? Minibeasts

*Topics are child-led and planning will reflect the interests of the children. To inspire the children, we will plan for themes.



Expressive Arts & Design

Painting minibeasts

Colour prediction

Butterflies

Using resources to make minibeasts

Make Hungry Caterpillar stages/tissue paper

Butterfly feeders

Make perfume

Bug rocks



Physical Development

Look at Spring 2

Self Help Skills (toilet, hands, coats)

Barn for PE session

Group activities

Team games (outdoor area: grass, astro)

Gross Fine motor skills (insect activities)

Chopping fruit to make smoothies

Yoga: insect moves

Pencil grip



Literacy

Introduce Fiction and Non Fiction

Environmental Sounds

Anticlockwise

Big Movements (Gross Motor)

Walking through the Jungle

World Book Day

Names

Phonics Phase 1 and SATPIN (environmental)

Insect songs

Hungry Caterpillar

Focus on Eric Carle the author

Story Maps

Story structure/sequencing

Alan Peate

Repeating refrains

