

# A Guide to Early Years Education for parents

## What is early years education all about?

The most important part of early education is allowing children to learn through play.

### *What does that mean?*

Allowing children the freedom to explore, formulate questions and answers in their mind, build on their interests, try things out, test out their own theories, assess risk in their play, and become effective learners that are intrigued and excited about the world around them.

### **Role of the adult**

- support exploration
- follow the child's lead and line of fascination.
- encourage them to have a go, to build on what they already know and open the door to more opportunity and possibilities.
- make sure we keep them safe whilst allowing them the space to take considered risks.
- ensure that children are not in danger, but also consider the risk benefit to something the children are doing.
- encourage and relish messy play! Letting them explore different textures, using all their senses to experience it



# The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The key to children's learning is having active play experiences, with adults to talk to them and support what they are doing.

The curriculum highlights the **'characteristics of effective learning'**.

These are:

- **playing and exploring**
- **active learning**
- **creativity and critical thinking**
- We support children with these characteristics of effective learning by providing quality, open ended and exciting opportunities that enable the children to explore, question, have a go and practice.

- ***There are 7 areas of learning and development in the early years:***
- **3 prime areas:**
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
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- **4 specific areas:**
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

# Working together with parents and carers

- Your child's development, care and learning needs take place at home and in the nursery. We want to work with you to learn about your child and their interests so that we can provide experiences that intrigue and excite them.
- It's important to us that the children feel safe and secure, but also have access to learning opportunities that are fun and active.
- We know that a child's development starts and finishes at home with their family. With the information provided by you we hope to continue and enhance the learning journey.

# What can be done at home?

- Have conversations with your children, lots of talking and plenty of listening
- Play and spend time with them when possible
- Share stories, a lovely activity before bedtime
- Cook/bake
- Access to pens/pencils/paint/scissors/glue
- Let them help you when they can with jobs around the house
- Go for walks

## **Communication between you and us**

- Try to speak to your child's key person as often as possible about what your child has been doing and what they have enjoyed.
- If you ever have any worries, concerns, queries or simply have something important to say, please speak to your child's key person.

## **Other places to get information and support**

- The Children's Centre can offer support and information. A timetable of what's going on is available from reception.
- <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/early-years-education>