



Ashfield Nursery - Literacy Intent and Implementation

At Ashfield Nursery School Literacy development is learning about sounds, vocabulary and language. Literacy is the basis for children's ability to read, write, communicate and socialise. Literacy in Ashfield includes talking about books, print in the environment, early mark making and writing, as well as sharing books and reading. The statutory frameworks in England and Wales emphasise the fundamental importance of literacy and sharing books.

English and the teaching of English is the foundation of our curriculum. We believe that the teaching of English is a skill for life in which children use and apply their literacy skills. This knowledge and these skills must be understood confidently and competently, allowing them to then apply them in every day contexts and embed within other areas of the curriculum. Children are exposed to print and simple picture books and story sacks from the 2-year-old unit and are encouraged to join in with interactive rhymes and songs. Throughout nursery there are many opportunities to read within the daily routine and we use a wide range of books to engage children to read which are linked to topics, events and interests. In order to expose children to a range of genres, we carefully select our topics to create opportunities for children to have specific reading and writing journeys that are purposeful. Various reading materials are available in all of the areas of the classroom, for instance cookery books in the home corners and building instructions in the construction areas. We help children to maximise their opportunities to develop literacy through everyday experiences such as sharing books together, reading independently and sharing a book with their friends in the reading areas. Story sessions are planned daily and the children become very familiar with our core texts. We plan to inspire children, equipping them with a strong command of written and spoken word and develop a love of the literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

Our children will develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing (including phonics) which enables them to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with each other effectively. We have daily phonics sessions in ability groups where children at first learn to discriminate between sounds and then begin to identify sounds and name letters of the alphabet, including playing games with sounds, such as 'I spy' and segmenting CVC words. There are endless opportunities for mark making within the environment and as the children become familiar with letters of the alphabet we encourage them to write for a purpose in role play areas such as shopping lists, in birthday cards, appointment books, menus etc as well as using magnetic letters to try to make words.

We encourage all children to become enthusiastic readers of stories, as well as non-fiction texts. Using this knowledge, they can choose and adopt what they say and write in different situations. We believe that it is essential to enable each child to convey their own ideas and opinions clearly, and respond creatively and critically to a wide range of information and ideas across all aspects of the curriculum. We will build and scaffold their learning, giving them a solid foundation of literacy skills that will set them up for the rest of their education.