



Home - School Partnership - Curriculum Outline

Themes

In the Reception class at Bury we continue with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which most children will have started with pre-school providers. The Early Years Foundation Stage is underpinned by four themes. These are:

A Unique Child

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Children foster the characteristics of effective early learning by:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

The above themes work together with several areas that have been divided into **three primary and four specific areas**. The three prime areas cover the acquisition of knowledge and skills to prepare children for school. These are reinforced by the four specific areas. The seven disciplines provide the foundation for the national curriculum which is started in Year 1. In each area "Early Learning Goals" establish expectations for most children to reach by the end of the foundation stage.

These "E.L.G.'s" carry on the work begun at playgroup, nursery or home and are made up of goals for:

- *Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Prime)*
- *Physical Development (Prime)*
- *Communication and Language (Prime)*
- *Literacy (Specific)*
- *Mathematics (Specific)*
- *Understanding the World (Specific)*
- *Expressive Arts and Design (Specific)*

Each of these has clear links with the National Curriculum, which takes the child through to the age of sixteen.

Communication and Language (Prime)

Children are exposed to a rich language environment. They are taught and encouraged to develop their confidence and skills in expression and to speak and listen in a range of situations.



Physical development (Prime)

Opportunities are made available for the children to be active and interactive - to develop coordination, control and movement. The children are also aided in understanding the importance of physical activity and make healthy choices - especially when they are hungry and peckish.

Personal, social and emotional development (Prime)

Children are helped to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and learn to respect others, to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Literacy (Specific)

This involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and learning to read and write. They will have access to a wide range of reading materials, which include books and poems to spark their interests.

Mathematics (Specific)

This includes teaching children to count, understand and use numbers, solve simple addition and subtraction problems and describe shapes, spaces and measures.

Understanding the World (Specific)

This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their communities through exploration, observations and research on people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive arts and design (Specific)

This enables children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, develop their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology and share these with other children and adults.

Planned Work

In all activities both in and out of the classroom an emphasis is placed on the three prime areas of development. Children are always encouraged to be polite, friendly and helpful individuals and to interact positively with both peers and adults. As well as being encouraged at all times children also engage in activities where these skills are directly taught.

Throughout the year children will be engaged in literacy work. This work has a phonic core as a good knowledge of phonics is very important in both reading and written work. Number work will also be covered in designated sessions. Children will take part in literacy and numeracy activities on a daily basis, many although not all of these activities follow the topic theme.

Children take part in one extended PE lesson each week and also have many opportunities to practise both gross and fine motor skills in both the indoor and outdoor classroom.