



Dear Parent/Carers,

Your child's Learning Journal tells the story of their learning. Over time, it will become a celebration of their achievement and progress, recording your child's key achievements during their time in the Foundation Unit and at home with family and friends. We feel that it is important to get to know each child really well because the more we understand about their interests, skills and special talents the better we are able to support their learning.

At school we use an electronic system called Tapestry which we feel is an effective and informative way of recording and assessing your child's development. We record key achievements to show their progress through the Early Years curriculum. These Learning Journals will be printed so that you can see them at any time and they are always available at Stay and Play sessions. We will also add some of their artwork and their progress summaries to this document as well.

We recognise the shared role of both home and school in your child's development and would welcome any contributions that you might have. Consequently we also have a Home Journal so that you can add observations and photographs yourself if you feel that your child has done anything for the first time or has done something special that you would like us to hear about. You can come and collect your child's Home Journal at any time if you have anything you would like to add.

Madeleine Garner Early Years Leader

Areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas are;

- **Communication and language** (Giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations)
- **Physical development** (Providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy food choices.)
- **Personal, social and emotional development** (Helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and to develop respect for others; to develop social skills and to learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups ; and to have confidence in their own abilities.)

There are four additional areas of learning through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- **Literacy** (Encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.)
- **Mathematics** (Providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.)
- **Understanding the world** (Guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.)
- **Expressive arts and design** (Enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.)