

NORTHWICK MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING IN EYFS A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



The Rivers
C.of E. Academy Trust

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WELCOME

Seven areas of learning

The staff welcome you to our school and hope that you and your child will enjoy your time with us. The aim of this booklet is to encourage you to help your child to become ready for school by fully developing his/her natural abilities and to explain how learning is organised for the Early Years Foundation Stage pupils.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

(The first 3 areas; PSED, C&L and PD are considered the most important aspects when building a good foundation for learning.)

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Successful PSED is critical for very young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning. It focuses on dispositions and attitudes to learning, as well as developing a positive sense of self in the environment provided.

How to help at home with PSED

PSED takes place through teaching your child values, such as truthfulness, kindness, fairness, respect, honesty, and concern for others. Long before they start school, they should understand 'right' and 'wrong'. Children should learn to share, to co-operate, to behave appropriately, to exercise self-discipline and to treat the environment with care.

For example, pre-school children should learn to respect different cultures and customs, as well as valuing their own. They should be encouraged to build up their confidence and self-esteem, feeling able to separate from their parents/carers when they have settled at school.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

C&L includes speaking, listening and understanding. It includes elements such as developing a greater attention span and responding with relevant comments and questions. The development of good speaking and listening skills enable your child to build a solid foundation from which to develop their reading and writing skills.

It is important that children are able to differentiate between different sounds they hear in their everyday environment. Concepts such as positional language and time language are included in this area. C&L also focuses on understanding and following instructions; key skills to learn when starting school!

How to help at home with C&L

It is important that your child is encouraged to listen carefully to stories, poems and songs, and to respond by asking questions, retelling what he or she has heard, or drawing a picture about it. To encourage listening to different sounds try going on a sound-walk (it could just be around the garden) and ask your child to talk about or draw what they hear. Try a treasure hunt or making up jokes and silly sentences.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

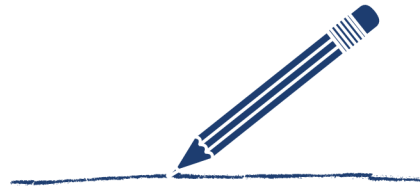
PD in the foundation stage is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Physical development has two other very important aspects. It helps children gain confidence in what they can do and enables them to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active. Effective physical development helps children develop a positive sense of wellbeing. This area includes Forest School.

How to help at home with Physical Development

Physical development can be encouraged through so many different activities and aspects of general life. Gross motor skills can be developed by taking a walk, riding a bike, going to the park, using gym equipment or trampolines. Encouraging hand-eye coordination falls into this area too. Try playing football or throwing and catching games, going ten pin bowling or playing skittles in the garden.

Fine motor skills are vital when it comes to writing, so try to encourage your child to participate in cutting and sticking activities, using tweezers or chopsticks to pick up small objects and using your hands to manipulate soft objects like clay or bread dough.

LITERACY



Literacy is split into two sections; reading and writing. It includes each stage the children need to go through in order to build up good reading and writing skills. This begins with showing an interest in 'mark making', which could involve drawing a picture or even 'writing' squiggles with different writing tools. The children will need to understand how to hold a pencil effectively and perhaps begin to copy or write a few letters from their name. Reading skills begin with developing a love of books and sharing stories, talking about picture books and understanding that print carries meaning and can be followed from left to right.

How to help at home with Literacy

Providing your child with a range of tools to make marks with (pencils, pens, paintbrushes, sticks, charcoal, water, etc) will enable them to develop the fine motor skills needed for writing. Ask them about the pictures they have drawn or the marks they have made to allow them to attach meaning to their creations.

When reading stories and looking at books, talk about the main characters or ask your child what they think will happen next. Point to the words as you are reading and encourage your child to join in with any repetition.

MATHS



Maths includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, making connections, recognising relationships and working with numbers, shapes, space and measures. Mathematical understanding should be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers, including numbers larger than 10.

How to help at home with Maths

You can help your child by providing opportunities to develop number skills (counting, adding and subtracting); sorting, sequencing and ordering everyday objects; making predictions whenever an opportunity arises; and recognising shapes in your child's world. It is better to be accurate with smaller numbers of objects (for example up to 10) before moving on to bigger numbers.

You do not need special equipment to teach mathematical skills; they can all be introduced using things in the home and in the environment outside. You could try counting the stairs when you go up or down them, sing number songs like 'ten green bottles', or count out plates when you are setting the table for dinner.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

This area of learning is very broad; it forms the foundation for later work in science, design and technology, history, geography, information and communication and religious education.

Children's natural curiosity about themselves and the world around them forms the basis for later learning.

How to help at home with Understanding the world

Exploring and investigating your home and wider surroundings will enable your child to develop the skills needed in all facets of this area. The wider their experience the wider their knowledge.

Talk to your child about why you use computers and play some games together. Go to the park and look at the trees along the way. Find some insects in the garden to look at and talk about. Build Lego models. Look at old family photos and talk about yourself as a child. Do some baking together. The possibilities are endless.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN



Expressive Arts and Design involves children initiating their own learning and making choices and decisions. Being creative enables children to make connections between one area of learning and another and so extend their understanding. This area of learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play.

How to help at home with Creative Development

Providing your child with stimulating resources will help your child fulfil his or her potential. Use a variety of pens, pencils, crayons, chalk, paint, charcoal, and so on, to draw or write with. Having access to music and musical instruments (even if it's pots and pans with a wooden spoon to beat with) will help your child's creative development. Try dressing up as your favourite book or TV characters and act out stories. Sing songs together and make up actions to go with them



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