

Early Years for Parents

What are the Areas of Learning and Development in the Early Years Curriculum?


There are seven Areas of Learning and Development in the early years curriculum. There are three Prime Areas and four Specific Areas. It is expected that a typical child will progress in each of these areas during the Foundation Stage.

The Prime Areas contain fundamental skills, attitudes and knowledge.

The Specific Areas build on these and develop new skills and broader knowledge.



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Prime Areas	Specific Areas
<p>Communication and Language: Includes listening to others, communicating needs and developing language and vocabulary. Joining in and paying attention with familiar adults.</p>	<p>Literacy: Includes learning about rhymes and syllables, taking part in listening games, repeated refrains and developing a love for reading. Being able to notice sounds in the environment and learning to write their name.</p>
<p>Physical Development: Includes developing control in making large movements (e.g. walking, running, jumping) and small movements (e.g. holding mark-making tools).</p>	<p>Mathematics: Includes counting, identifying numbers, sequencing, subitising, recognising shapes and patterns and simple comparisons of amounts, such as more than, the same etc.</p>
<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Includes recognising emotions, sharing resources with others and making friends as well as self-care skills, such as getting dressed, using the toilet and washing their hands. Developing relationships with peers and adults.</p>	<p>Understanding the World: Includes learning about celebrations, festivals and special events, finding out about people and communities and developing an understanding of why things happen and how they work.</p>
	<p>Expressive Arts and Design: Encourages the development of imaginative and creative skills by encouraging children to explore different materials, role-play activities and music.</p>

Each day, children will have opportunities to develop skills across these Areas of Learning. These activities will take place both indoors and outdoors. Many activities will support the development of skills from several different Areas of Learning. For example, a painting activity encourages children to develop creative skills as they express their ideas through paint, physical skills as they improve control of the brush, communication and language skills as they talk about their play and personal, social and emotional skills as they share materials, take pride in their work and appreciate the work of others.