

***Your child's 'Learning Journey' begins in Early Years.
Early Years is the bedrock of all learning and is a critical stage of your child's
development.***

We offer a high quality broad and balanced curriculum which has four main elements as shown in the diagram on the right.

- Learning is play-based and takes place indoors and outside.
- There is a balance between adult-initiated experiences (guided learning) and child-initiated experiences.
- Adults take children's interests and strengths as a starting point, seeing each child as a competent learner.
- Parent involvement is crucial. We learn a great deal about each child from their parents. Parental support and a high-quality home learning environment make a huge difference to children.

What is the curriculum? The curriculum is everything we want the children to experience and learn whilst they are in nursery.

Learning includes new words, new skills and new knowledge

Experiences include trips out of nursery, times when we invite people in, like police. We also have special extra experiences in nursery like the small animal visits.

- Children learn a great deal of our curriculum through play and activities they choose.
- They also learn through our careful selection of 'key books, rhymes and songs' in nursery.
- We also have 8 curricular goals for every child to work towards:

How do young children learn? How do we teach young children?

We have lots of evidence about how young children learn. Here are some of the key points:

- **Language:** chatting, playing and reading with children every day helps them learn lots of new words. Language is the foundation of children's thinking. Children who are good communicators at five are most likely to be successful learners throughout their time in school.
- **Relationships:** it is very important for children to feel safe and secure. That's why every child has a key person who takes the lead on their care. Children become more independent when they have strong and loving relationships to fall back on. They also become better at bouncing back when they find something hard or get upset.

- **Independent play:** children need uninterrupted time to choose their own play and make friends. Adults will often get involved, in a sensitive way, to help the children to learn whilst they are playing. Adults will think about the important knowledge children need and how they can learn this whilst they are playing.

- **Adult-guided play:** children also need times when adults plan and guide their play. A play activity might be guided so it has a clear focus on learning to count, for example.

- **Direct teaching:** sometimes adults work directly with children to teach them new things. This could include learning to use scissors, or ride a bike, or write some of the letters of their name.

- We offer a balance of all these different approaches.

1	Settle in	Settle in and become a confident learner
2	Follow	Follow a recipe to bake a fairy cake
3	Make	Make a model at the junk modelling table
4	Ride	Ride a pedal trike
5	Create	Create your own sequence of movements
6	Put on	Put on and do up your own coat
7	Make up	Make up your own story
8	Write	Write the first two letters of your name

How can parents support children's learning?

Our partnership with parents is a big part of our work. You know so much about your child. Your support and encouragement will make a big difference to their learning.