

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Young children are individuals first, each with a unique profile of abilities. At Nicol Mere, planning starts with observing children in order to understand and consider their current interests, development and learning needs as individuals.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of 7 areas of Learning and Development which are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In school this underpins everything that we do. This area of learning will help the children develop a positive sense of themselves and others. They will learn to respect others, gain vital social skills and grow a positive attitude to learn. Personal, social and emotional development is broken into 3 aspects which are:

Making Relationships

Self Confidence and Self Awareness

Managing Feelings and Behaviour.

Physical Development

Children will develop co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement in fine motor skills and gross motor skills. We have 2 lessons of P.E each week which cover spacial awareness, gymnastics, dance and games skills. Children also have continuous access to the outdoor area which includes planned physical activities. They will also develop an understanding of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food. Physical Development is broken into 2 aspects which are:

Moving and Handling

Health and Self Care



Communication and Language

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to speak and listen in a range of situations and to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves. Communication and language are broken into 3 aspects which are:

Listening and Attention

Understanding and Speaking

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to read and write, both through listening to others reading, and being encouraged to begin to read and write themselves. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials - books, poems, and other written materials, to ignite their interest. Literacy is broken into 2 aspects which are:



Reading

Writing

Mathematics

Mathematics development involves providing children with opportunities to practise and improve their skills in counting numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems, and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. The 2 aspects of mathematics are:

Numbers

Shape, Space and Measures



Understanding the World

Understanding of the world involves 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. Understanding the world is broken into 3 aspects which are:

People and Communities

The World

Technology



Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive arts and design involves supporting 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. The 2 aspects included in expressive arts and designs are:

Exploring and using media and materials

Being imaginative



Assessment

On-going assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process in the Early Years Foundation Stage. At Nicol Mere we will observe the children taking part in everyday activities as we feel this is the most reliable way to build up an accurate picture of what children know, understand, feel, are interested in and can do. From this the class teachers will plan your child's next steps in learning.

We recognise how you, as parents, are an integral part of this process and throughout the year we will be asking for your support to complete observations to add to your child's learning journey.

Preparing my child for school

It is very important that you begin to talk to your child emphasizing positively the exciting time ahead. There are many things that you can do to support your child with important skills to enable them to be happy and confident at school. Here are some suggestions for the areas of learning and development.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

You can work with your child encouraging him/her:

- listen to simple instructions and follow them
- play simple games learning to share and take turns
- take care of their possessions
- tidy and clear away toys

Physical Development

You can help your child by encouraging him/her:

- to put on their own coat and shoes
- use the toilet by themselves
- to wash their hands
- to hop, skip, run and jump when playing outside
- to explore the equipment at the park, using language such as under, over, through, between
- to play with playdoh, using the tools to develop fine motor control.
- to have a go at threading and cutting activities

Communication and Language

You can work with your child by

- using opportunities to listen carefully to sounds in the environment
- singing songs and rhymes
- talking about different sounds they hear, such as a tractor's 'chug chug' while sharing a book
- giving clear instructions and helping them to deal with more than 1 instructions e.g. "Put the cars away please, then come and wash your hands for lunch"
- asking questions about stories e.g. "Why did the boat tip over?"

Literacy

You can work with your child by:

- singing alphabet books and nursery rhymes
- sharing books and stories, asking questions about the characters in the story, likes and dislikes, pointing to pictures and following the text with your finger.
- retelling favourite stories
- playing games such as 'I spy...'
- providing opportunities for children to write, such as helping with the shopping list, writing birthday cards, letters to friends. (It is important to value any form of writing even if you cannot read it yourself!)
- writing their name
- forming lower case letters (please see letter formation sheet in your pack)
- practicing sounding 2 and 3 letter words **c-a-t**
- using magnetic letters to begin to spell familiar words such as mum, dad etc.

Mathematics

You can help your child by:

- counting objects where you go, can you count cars, animals, people, bubbles, footsteps etc.
- identifying numbers in the environment, door numbers, cars, shop displays
- identifying shapes in the environment, on buildings, objects
- using language such as bigger, wider, shorter, longer, taller in every day contexts
- describing places and objects using positional language, under, over, between, behind etc.
- sharing objects and food, if I have 6 bananas how many will each person get
- baking activities, weighing ingredients, measuring water, counting eggs etc.
- sing number songs such as 5 speckled frogs, 10 green bottles

Understanding the World

You can help your child by:

- exploring your surroundings both indoors and outdoors, what you can see, hear, smell, touch and taste
- pose questions such as What would happen if...?
- take part in cooking activities and discuss what changes occur
- explore a range of ICT equipment such as cameras, computers and programmable toys
- show your child old photographs from the past, parents, grandparents, events. Use words relating to the passing of time such as old, new, a long time ago
- explore the local area taking pictures of interesting things you find

Expressive Arts and Design

You can help your child by:

- encouraging them to use a range of materials such as crayons, paints, scissors, sounds, movements, props to express themselves
- paint or draw together
- listen to different types of music; why not try creating small dances!
- Junk modelling
- Have fun, make a mess!