

Early Years Curriculum

Children must have access to a rich learning environment where opportunities and conditions allow them to flourish in all aspects of their development. The learning environment should provide balance across all areas of learning. Integral to this is an ethos that:

- respects each child as an individual
- values children’s efforts, interests and purposes as instrumental to successful learning

The Early Years curriculum has 7 key areas that will underpin daily activities within the exciting early years setting:

Prime areas	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>Making relationships with peers and adults Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour</p> <p>A child’s, personal, social and emotional wellbeing is vital at this developmental stage. Providing a safe and secure environment will enable us to develop confident children who are ready to explore new experiences and challenges. Our setting will enable the children to form positive relationships with both their peers and adults in our setting.</p>
Physical Development	<p>Moving and handling Health and self-care</p> <p>An active and engaging setting allows the children to explore both gross and fine motors skills. The development of this physical development is essential to the children’s learning journey and prewriting skills. We will help the children to understand the importance of a healthy diet and physical activity.</p>
Communication and Language	<p>Listening and attention Understanding and Speaking</p> <p>The preschool years are an exciting time of robust language development. Vocabulary blossoms from a few hundred words to a few thousand and word comprehension takes off. Literacy and language experiences in our nursery rooms collectively contribute to the development of a child’s emerging speaking, reading, and writing skills by continually nurturing and challenging each child’s language development.</p>

Specific areas	
Literacy	<p>Reading and writing</p> <p>Fostering a love of books through stories read aloud, expanding speaking and understanding through daily conversation and assisting growth in all skills — such as story comprehension, vocabulary development, and fine motor skills— that will be needed for the first steps towards pre-reading and pre-writing.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Numbers Shape, Space and Measures</p> <p>Our learning environment will provide exciting opportunities to explore early number, shape space and</p>

	<p>measure using various resources and objects. The children will learn to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort, group and compare • Begin to explore number and counting • Compare and explore different sized objects • Explore shape and pattern in the environment.
Understanding the world	<p>People and communities The World and Technology Observing and exploring the children's environment is key to gaining an understanding of the world. The children will be encouraged to explore, observe and express their ideas about their surroundings. Our aim is to develop children who have a greater understanding of our community and the wider world we live in. We offer learning with iPads, interactive whiteboards, and programmable mini-bots to give young children the earliest introduction into the digital information world of the 21st Century.</p>
Expressive arts and design	<p>Exploring and using media and materials Being imaginative The children will have opportunities to engage in sensory play allowing the children to explore a variety of materials, music and movement. Our aim is to give the children the opportunity to express themselves through dance, singing, craft and imaginative play. The children will be engaged in a creative curriculum which will focus on learning through play.</p>

We carefully assess children during their time with us, and regularly review their progress to ensure that our planned activities are meeting their needs. We use Tapestry to capture children's individual achievements; these will be shared with parents and carers.

Pycroft Grange Primary School highly values the partnership with families and we encourage notes about children's achievements outside the nursery environment.

Enriching opportunities

Bessie the Bus

The bus provides the children with a fun and interesting environment where they are able to become imaginative, playing the role of bus driver and passengers whilst listening and sharing stories with one another.

Sports4Kids

The children will have specialised physical development sessions that will explore physical development through nursery rhymes and stories.