



Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum at Clare House

Pupils in our Reception classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, with its focus on structured and stimulating play based learning.

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape lesson planning in our two Reception classes. All areas of learning and development are important and woven together. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

We also support the children in the four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. They are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

These are the areas of learning in a little more detail.

- **Communication and language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.
- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest and are encouraged to talk about what they have read.
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes and patterns, as well as looking at measures such as length, capacity, time and money.

- **Understanding 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.

- **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling 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.

As a school we positively encourage effective learning through playing and exploring, creative and critical thinking and active learning. These run through and underpin all seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage.