

Helping your child to grow and develop in the Early Years – A Guide for Parents

★ ★ ★ “Play is the **highest** form of **research**” ^{4 3 5}  – Albert Einstein

What’s in the Early Years Curriculum?

Basically, three ‘prime areas’ and four ‘specific areas’, which are then subdivided again as shown in the table below. The prime areas are the most important ones of all. Without developing these skills, children can’t make good progress in the specific areas. The curriculum covers development from birth to age 5, but in a primary school focuses on the Reception year.

The Prime Areas			
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Communication and Language	Physical Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making relationships• Self-confidence and self-awareness• Managing feelings and behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and attention<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding• Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moving and handling• Health and self-care	
The Specific Areas			
Literacy	Maths	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number• Shape, space and measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People and communities<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The world• Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring and using media and materials• Being imaginative

The ‘Early Learning Goal’ for each area is what a child needs to have achieved by the end of their Reception year in order to be considered at the expected age-related level of development. However, all children develop at different rates. If you have concerns about your child’s development in any area, speak to his or her class teacher.

Have fun!