

EYFS Curriculum Overview

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our curriculum in our Foundation Stage. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. 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 are **The Prime Areas**:

EYFS Prime Areas of Learning	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)	Making Relationships
	Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness
	Managing Feelings and Behaviour
Communication and Language (CL)	Listening and Attention
	Understanding
	Speaking
Physical Development (PD)	Moving and Handling
	Health and Self-care

- **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.
- **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.

Children are also supported in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. **The Specific Areas** are:

EYFS Specific Areas of Learning	
Literacy (L)	Reading
	Writing
Mathematics (M)	Number
	Shape, Space and Measure
Understanding the World (UW)	People and Communities
	The World
	Technology
Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)	Exploring Using Media and Materials
	Being Imaginative

- **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 (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.
- **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, spaces, and measure.
- **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.

At Parsons Down children are provided with challenging and supportive learning and play opportunities within the seven curriculum areas. The EYFS curriculum is designed to be really flexible so that we can follow a child's unique needs and interests. Therefore our planning is based on the children's own interests and fascinations, which allow our children to become successful, independent learners. We try to base all learning in a real life context and the children will go on local walks to use amenities such as the post office, post box, shop and garden centre depending on their current interests. We also embrace important celebrations throughout the year such as Bonfire Night, Christmas and Easter.

When planning and guiding learning opportunities, we take into account the following different ways that our children learn effectively, which are:

- **Playing and exploring:** providing opportunities for children to investigate and experience things and encouraging children to 'have a go';
- **Active learning:** providing opportunities for children to concentrate and keep trying if they encounter difficulties as well as enjoy and celebrate their achievements;
- **Creating and critically thinking:** providing opportunities for children to have and develop ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.