

The Early Years Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning. There are three prime areas of learning that underpin everything in the early years:

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

The four specific areas help children to strengthen and apply the prime areas:

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

All of those areas of learning are connected together.

It is important to remember that all children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. By the time they leave Pre – School, most children will be developing the skills described below in the different areas of learning:

Communication and Language

Know a wide range of songs and rhymes.

Listen attentively to stories and be able to talk about them.

Pay attention to more than one thing at a time.

Understand two - part instructions such as “Please get your coat and wait at the door”.

Speak in sentences of 4 – 6 words.

Take turns in conversations.

Use language to express their ideas and to organise their play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Choose what they would like to do.

Develop a sense of responsibility and membership of a community.

Become more confident with unfamiliar people and situations.

Play collaboratively with one or more children.

Talk about their feelings.

Understand how others may feel.

Remember and follow rules.

Develop appropriate ways to assert themselves and find solutions to conflicts.

Physical Development

Move in a variety of ways and develop new skills such as balancing, climbing, skipping and hopping.

Handle resources safely.

Use one- handed tools such as scissors and tweezers.

Develop a comfortable grip with good control when using pens and pencils.

Use a knife and fork.

Begin to dress and undress themselves, meet their own care and hygiene needs independently.

Make healthy lifestyle choices regarding food, drink, exercise and oral health.

Literacy

Understand that print has meaning and purpose and be aware of the direction of text.

Develop an awareness of rhyming words, syllables and initial sounds.

Talk about stories and learn new vocabulary.

Write some letters accurately.

Write some or all of their name.

Write some letters accurately and include these in their early writing.

Mathematics

Say the number names to 5 and beyond in the correct order.

Count up to 5 objects, touching each object and saying the number name as they do so.

Begin to recognise numbers from 0 – 5.

Understand concepts such as 'more than', 'less than' and 'the same' in everyday activities.

Know the names of some shapes.

Understand and use positional language (for example, 'behind', 'in front', 'under' and 'over').

Be able to say which object is the heaviest/lightest, tallest/shortest in everyday experiences and understand the difference between 'full' and 'empty'.

Recognise and identify simple patterns – for example red, blue, red, blue.....

Talk about the sequence of events - for example, getting up, having breakfast, coming to Pre – School.

Understanding the World

Explore their environment and talk about what they see.

Begin to understand their life story and family.

Show an interest in different occupations.

Develop positive attitudes about differences between people.

Know that there are different countries in the world and explore similarities and differences.

Understand the lifecycles of plants and animals.

Respect and care for the natural world.

Explore how things work.

Explore and talk about forces.

Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.

Expressive Arts and Design

Take part in imaginary play.

Build 'small worlds' with construction kits.

Use a range of materials and resources to express their ideas.

Use drawing to express their ideas and emotions.

Add details to drawings – such as adding features to a face.

Sing a variety of songs and play a variety of instruments.