

Children First Curriculum



www.children-first.info

The Children First curriculum focuses on the world the children live within and allows children to explore their natural environment and local community whilst exploring all 7 of the areas of development from the Early Year's Foundation Stage Development Matters. Our approach works hand in hand with the Curiosity Approach in the types of resources and experiences we provide for the children.

Areas of Development

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Development Matters as a guide as to where we want all children to be achieving.

We have very high expectations for our children and support them through targeted observation and assessment by our skilled key workers who have exceptional knowledge of the early learning goals and their individual key children's development, interests and home life.

We work hand in hand with parents to ensure we have a shared approach to nursery and home learning. Parents and key workers use the Eylog online portal to communicate about the children and development.

The 7 areas of development are:

Personal, Social and Emotional

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Art and Design

Monthly themes

Children First Nurseries focus on an around the world curriculum to teach children life skills from the 7 areas of development within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

All of our subject areas include parents and families at the heart of learning, have an understanding of the world and cultural approach and links to local communities.

Children will learn through open ended play and first hand experiences.

Each month has a theme that links to an aspect of the world and to extend on children's awe and wonder.

January – Travel and transport

February – People who help us

March – Spring

April – Growth and life cycles

May – Materials

June – Fantasy and fiction

July – Summer

August – Animals around the world

September – All about me, my family and families around the world

October – Autumn

November – Light and dark

December – Winter

Personal, Social and Emotional

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others.



Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively.



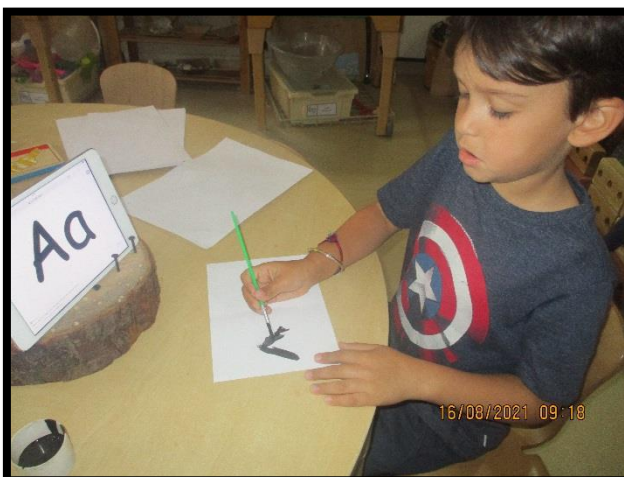
Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults.



Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).



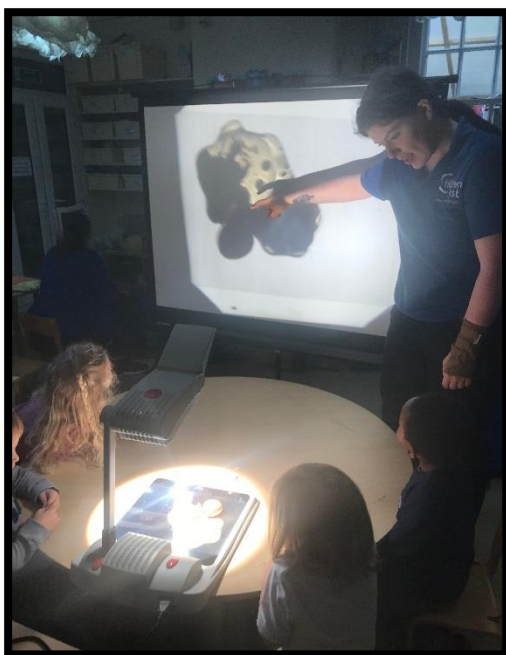
Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers.



Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.



Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.



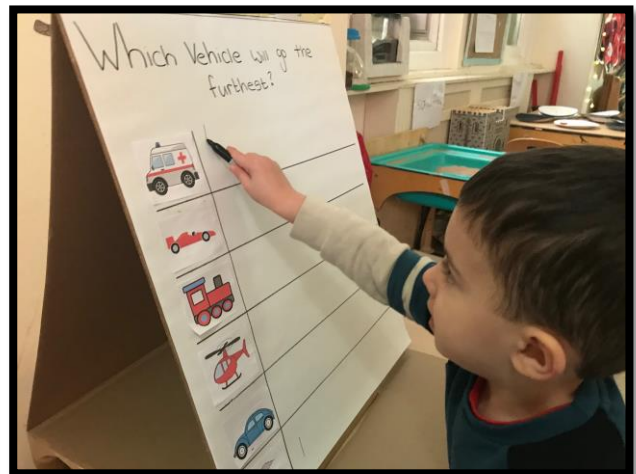
Travel and Transport

Travel and transport enables children to explore the local community and all aspects of travel within the community.

We will explore types of transport from bikes to airplanes and children will recall from their own first hand experiences and explore a range of role plays and small world play.

Children will have access to several local trips on various types of transport and also look at people who help us within this such as crossing patrols and emergency services vehicles.

They will look at how different people travel around the world in different cultures.



People who help us

The children will look at our local community and discuss people who help us in all walks of life.

The children will have the opportunity to go out into the community, meet local people and also have the opportunity to have visitors in the nursery such as police, fire fighters, doctors, guide dogs and more.

This will allow for children to have a deep understanding of roles in life and they can use these experiences to build on their own role play and imaginative experiences.

The children will look at the different jobs people close to them have and families will have an active role in joining in with this theme.



Spring

During March the children will have the opportunity to explore the natural world around them as the season changes to spring.

The children will be active in the local community exploring the natural world as they collect natural items such as plants, seeds and sticks.

Children will explore the awe and wonder of the season as they investigate the changing season and natural items and use them for activities such as planting, painting and experimenting.



Growth and life cycles

Children will have the exciting opportunity to explore growth and life cycles in detail. Children will look first hand into the life cycle of a butterfly, chick and banana as they begin to understand growth, decay and changes over time.

The children will also have the responsibility for growing their own produce as they plant seeds, bulbs and beans whilst also caring for the nursery gardens and making links with the local allotment.

Fresh grown produce will be used for a variety of cooking activities and children can use their own fresh grown herbs for cooking such as cress sandwiches.



Materials

The children will have the opportunity to explore the world with their 5 senses as they explore materials in their environment.

Awe and wonder is sparked through changes to materials as they change in state due to exciting science experiments.

A wide range of messy play is planned and children can excitedly explore a fantastic range of extraordinary textures and materials and make marks.

Loose parts are always available for children to construct on a small and large scale using the materials to spark imagination.

Children can explore the creation process as we focus on the process not product when creating outstanding creative pieces.

A wide range of cooking activities are also planned and children can use a variety of materials to make food to be shared with their families.



Fantasy and fiction

Enchanting environments and resources will be explored as the children extend on the power of their imagination as they explore fantasy and fiction.

The children will learn about traditional tales and stories as they build on their vocabulary with new stories and songs. Children will explore using their imaginations to build their own stories.

Unique lands and enchanting creatures will also be looked at to make stories and extend on imagination as children explore dragons, fairies, unicorns and more.



Summer

All forms of water is explored during the warmer summer months and children have the experience of learning about weight and capacity as well as shape, space and measures.

Children explore the beach scene with a variety of sand and water activities alongside sea animals and desert animals looking at habitats.

Sun safety is also a hot topic as children learn how to keep themselves safe in the sun.

Summer around the world is looked at and children share their holiday photos and memories.



Animals around the world

All types of animals are explored alongside their authentic habitats and landscapes they live in.

Children will explore animals under the sea, in the arctic, farm animals, reptiles, African animals and mini beasts.

Children will have the opportunity to get up close and personal to some real animals as they look at caring for animals and have exciting visits from local pet shops and live science.

Animals are looked at in the local environment as the children take part in mini beast hunts and explore African land snails and stick insects.

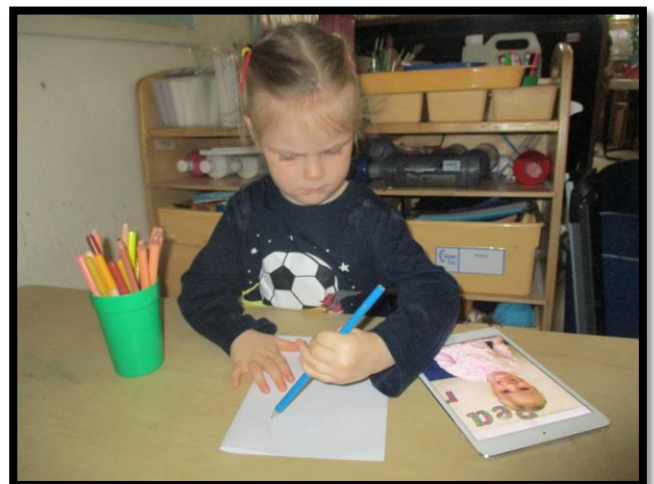


All about me, my family and families around the world

The children will explore how everyone in the nursery is unique as they look at their similarities and differences that connect them and distinguish them from others.

Children's own families will be explored as they create family trees and families can be actively involved in coming into the nursery to join in with the children.

Global inspiration is sought upon as the children look at different families around the world and their customs and religions.



Autumn

The natural world is at the heart of the autumn topic as children head out into the local parks and woods to find joy in the changing season.

Children audit natural resources, examine leaf colours and take part in autumnal treasure hunts to bring resources back to the nursery for further investigation.

Families will be invited to head out on autumnal treasure hunts over the weekend and add to our collections of resources and children have the opportunity to explore messy play, make potions and create artistically.

Pumpkins and squash are explored as children seek awe and wonder in investigating what is inside a pumpkin, planting the seeds and cooking with the pumpkins and our nursery chefs.



Light and dark

The children will start to look at the time of day as they discuss morning and nighttime and begin to use the language of time discussing their own routines at nursery and at home.

Innovative equipment is introduced to spark awe and wonder as the children explore technology in their everyday world and for cause and effect. Torches, light boxes, glow sticks and light up toys are used to spark awe and wonder.

The joy of learning will be sparked as children investigate making colours darker and lighter and what is needed to make the change.



Winter

Cold weather and cold countries are explored as children discuss what is needed to stay warm in the cold alongside exploring different types of weather such as rain, snow and hailstones.

Cold countries around the world are investigated and children look at how people live as well as the animals in the countries and where they live and what they eat.

Change in state is explored as children spark awe and wonder by playing with ice and learning about the melting and freezing process.

