

Children First Curriculum



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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 early learning goals. Our approach works hand in hand with the Curiosity Approach in the types of resources and experiences we provide for the children.

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

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.

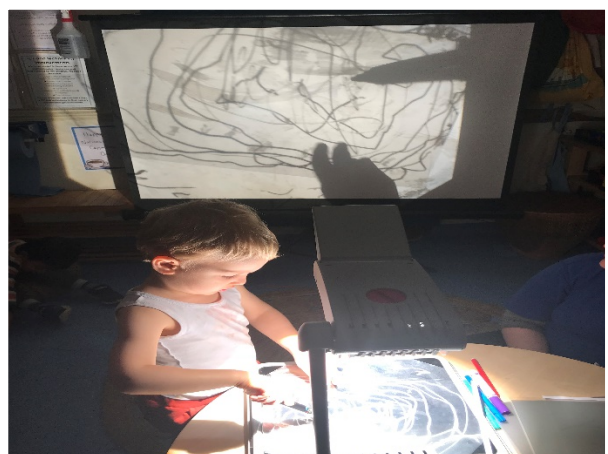


Light and dark

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.

