

# Learning in Reception

EYFS is where the excitement begins! We pride ourselves on providing exciting and engaging activities for all the children both inside the classroom and in our outdoor learning provision.

We encourage our children to be independent learners through a range of practical and interesting activities that are carefully planned to meet the needs and interests of the children.

We follow a thematic curriculum which allows us to be creative with our learning experiences and let the children lead their own learning. As our Foundation Stage children enter the classroom they learn primarily through a variety of play and real-life experiences and “must do” learning challenges.

The children access their learning freely; however they understand they must complete challenges that are set each day, which will scaffold and extend their learning. Their development is tracked through detailed, daily observations and child-initiated interaction. This information is then transferred into your child’s personal and individual online



## The EYFS Curriculum

Our Reception children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS). This curriculum is based upon four themes and principles.

**The Unique Child**— We understand that every child is an individual child who is capable in their own right. The holistic child has a variety of needs that need meeting over their time in Reception.

**Positive Relationships**— Social interaction is key to child’s development. Children become strong, independent learners; as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

**Enabling Environments**— Providing safe, secure and a stimulating environment for your child is key to their development. This framework allows for experiences that respond to the child’s individual needs/interests; as well as developing a strong partnership between staff, parents and guardians.

**Learning and Development**— Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year’s provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.



## Early Years Foundation Stage

# Early Learning Goals

Within “Development Matters” there are three prime areas of learning and four specific areas. The framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide. For each of these areas your child will have an “Early Learning Goal” to work towards.

**Prime Areas**— Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development

**Specific Areas**— Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design

Characteristics of Effective Learning— Playing and Exploring, Active Learning and Creating and Thinking Critically.

Your child’s first year at our Academy is vitally important as throughout the Reception Year children develop the approaches and attitudes that will lay the foundations for all their future learning. The ways in which they learn is as important as what they actually learn.

This is where the Characteristics of Effective Learning come in! A child who enjoys their learning and has a good attitude towards learning is very likely to acquire new knowledge quicker and gain greater educational success. The following information provides prompts for you to support your child and additional information for you as parents as to what we look for and consider when observing your child.

## Playing and Exploring

**Finding out and Exploring** – Does your child show curiosity about objects, events and People? Does your child engage in open ended activities and show any particular interest in things?

**Playing with what they know** – Does your child pretend objects are things from other experiences? Do they use building blocks like a phone or make a tower? Does your child take on roles in their play? Does your child act out experiences with others?

**Be Willing to have a go** – Does your child initiate activities or follow others? How does your child seek challenges? Does your child show a “can do” attitude? Does your child take risks or learn by trial and error?



## Active Learning

**Being involved and concentrating** – Does your child maintain focus on an activity for a period of time? Does your child show high interest and certain fascination for experiences?  
“Keep Trying” – How does your child demonstrate aspects of problem solving? Does your child bounce back after difficulty?

## Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Is your child proud of what they have achieved? Does your child enjoy challenges for their own sake, not just for a reward or praise?

## Creating and Thinking Critically

**Having their own ideas**—Does your child think of their own ideas? Does your child find new ways of doing things?

**Making Links**—Does your child make links in their experiences? Does your child make predictions? Does your child develop ideas about sequencing and cause effect?

**Choosing ways to do things** – Does your child plan and make decisions to try and reach a goal? Does your child change strategy if needed? Does your child review how well their plan and approach worked?