

Pre Nursery - Prime Areas

Communication and Language

- Listen and respond to a simple instruction.
- Listen to simple stories and understand what is happening, with the help of the pictures.
- Listen to other people's talk with interest, but can easily be distracted by other things.

- Use intonation, pitch and changing volume when 'talking.'
- Use the speech sounds p, b, m, w.
- Are usually still learning to pronounce:
 - l/r/w/y
 - s/sh/ch/dz/
 - f/th
 - multi-syllabic words such as 'banana' and 'computer'
- Start to develop conversation, often jumping from topic to topic.
- Start to say how they are feeling, using words as well as actions.
- Develop pretend play 'putting baby to sleep' or 'driving the car to the shops.'

- Identify familiar objects and properties for practitioners when they are described. For example: 'Katie's coat', 'blue car', 'shiny apple'.

Communication and Language

Understand and act on longer sentences like 'make teddy jump' or 'find your coat'.

- Understand simple questions about 'who', 'what' and 'where' (but generally not 'why').

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Find ways to calm themselves, through being calmed and comforted by their key person.
- Establish their sense of self.
- Find ways of managing transitions, for example from their parent to their key person.
- Thrive as they develop self-assurance.
- Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, because they know key adults are nearby and available.
- Feel strong enough to express a range of emotions.
- Grow in independence, rejecting help ('me do it'). Sometimes this leads to feelings of frustrations and tantrums.
- Begin to show 'effortless control.' For example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want and push their way to the front.
- Notice and ask questions about differences, such as skin colour, types of hair, gender and different needs.
- Develop friendships with other children.
- Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories.
- Are talking about their feelings in more elaborate ways. 'I am sad because...' or 'I love it when...'
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- Feel confident when taken out around their local area, and enjoys exploring new places with their key person.

Physical Development

- Clap and stamp to music
- Fit themselves into spaces, like tunnels, dens and large boxes, and move around in them.
- Enjoy starting to kick, throw and catch balls.
- Build independently with a range of appropriate resources.
- Spin, roll and independently use ropes and swings (for example, tyre swings).
- Sit on a push-along wheeled toy, use a scooter or ride a tricycle.
- Develop manipulation and control.
- Explore different materials and tools.
- Use large and small motor skills to do things independently, for example manage buttons and zips, and pour drinks.
- Show an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress.
- Learn to use the toilet with help, and then independently.



Pre Nursery - Specific Areas

Literacy

- Enjoy songs and rhymes, tuning in and paying attention.
 - Join in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo.
 - Say some of the words in songs and rhymes.
 - Copy finger movements and other gestures.
 - Sing songs and say rhymes independently, for example, singing whilst playing.
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- Enjoy sharing books with an adult.
 - Pay attention and responds to the pictures or the words.
 - Have favourite books and seeks them out, to share with an adult, with another child, or to look at alone.
 - Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories.
 - Ask questions about the book. Makes comments and shares their own ideas.
 - Develop play around favourite stories using props.
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- Notice some print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo.
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- Enjoy drawing freely.
 - Add some marks to their drawings, which they give meaning to. For example: "That says mummy."
 - Make marks on their picture to stand for their name.

Mathematics

- Combine objects like stacking blocks and cups. Put objects inside others and take them out again.
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- Take part in finger rhymes with numbers.
 - React to changes of amount in a group of up to three items.
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- Compare amounts, saying 'lots', 'more' or 'same'.
 - Counting-like behaviour, such as making sounds, pointing or saying some numbers in sequence.
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- Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers - '1-2-3-5.'
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- Climb and squeezing selves into different types of spaces.
 - Build with a range of resources.
 - Complete inset puzzles.
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- Compare sizes, weights etc. using gesture and language - 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'.
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- Notice patterns and arrange things in patterns.

Understanding the World

- Repeat actions that have an effect.
 - Explore materials with different properties.
 - Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.
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- Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.
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- Make connections between the features of their family and other families.
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- Notice differences between people.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Show attention to sounds and music.
 - Respond emotionally and physically to music when it changes.
 - Move and dance to music.
 - Anticipate phrases and actions in rhymes and songs, like 'Peepo'.
 - Explore their voices and enjoy making sounds.
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- Join in with songs and rhymes, making some sounds.
 - Make rhythmical and repetitive sounds.
 - Explore a range of sound-makers and instruments and play them in different ways.
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- Notice patterns with strong contrasts and be attracted by patterns resembling the human face.
 - Start to make marks intentionally.
 - Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools.
 - Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make.
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- Enjoy and take part in action songs, such as 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.
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- Start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object represents another. For example, a child holds a wooden block to her ear and pretends it's a phone.
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- Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them. Manipulate and play with different materials.
 - Use their imagination as they consider what they can do with different materials.
 - Make simple models which express their ideas.



Nursery - Prime Areas

Communication and Language

- Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.
- Can find it difficult to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.
- Use a wider range of vocabulary.
- Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as "Get your coat and wait at the door".
- Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"
- Sing a large repertoire of songs.
- Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.
- Develop their communication, but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'.
- May have problems saying:
 - some sounds: r, j, th, ch, and sh
 - multisyllabic words such as 'pterodactyl', 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus'
- Use longer sentences of four to six words.
- Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
- Can start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns.
- Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver."

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them.
- Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.
- Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting.
- Show more confidence in new social situations.
- Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas.
- Help to find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game, and suggesting other ideas.
- Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.
- Do not always need an adult to remind them of a rule.
- Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.
- Talk with others to solve conflicts.
- Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.
- Begin to understand how others might be feeling.

Physical Development

- Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.
- Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet.
- Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues.
- Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.
- Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams.
- Are increasingly able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm.
- Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width.
- Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel.
- Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.
- Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.
- Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.
- Start to eat independently and learning how to use a knife and fork.
- Show a preference for a dominant hand.
- Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips.
- Be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g. brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands thoroughly.
- Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.



Nursery - Specific Areas

Literacy

- Understand the five key concepts about print:
 - print has meaning
 - the names of the different parts of a book
 - print can have different purposes
 - page sequencing
 - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
- Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can:
 - spot and suggest rhymes
 - count or clap syllables in a word
 - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother
- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.
- Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; write 'm' for mummy.
- Write some or all of their name.
- Write some letters accurately.

Mathematics

- Fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').
- Recite numbers past 5.
- Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.
- Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
- Show 'finger numbers' up to 5.
- Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5.
- Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.
- Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5.
- Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'.
- Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'.
- Understand position through words alone – for example, "The bag is under the table," – with no pointing.
- Describe a familiar route.
- Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'.
- Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity.
- Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof etc.
- Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle etc.
- Talk about and identifies the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs' etc.
- Extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf.
- Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.
- Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...'

Understanding the World

- Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.
- Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.
- Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.
- Show interest in different occupations.
- Explore how things work.
- Plant seeds and care for growing plants.
- Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.
- Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.
- Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.
- Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.
- Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.
- Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.
- Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses etc.
- Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park.
- Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
- Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.
- Join different materials and explore different textures.
- Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
- Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
- Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.
- Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc.
- Explore colour and colour-mixing.
- Listen with increased attention to sounds.
- Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.
- Remember and sing entire songs.
- Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').
- Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.
- Create their own songs, or improvise a song around one they know.
- Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.



Reception - Prime Areas

Communication and Language

- Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.
- Learn new vocabulary.
- Use new vocabulary through the day.
- Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.
- Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.
- Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.
- Describe events in some detail.
- Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities explain how things work and why they might happen.
- Develop social phrases.
- Engage in storytimes.
- Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding.
- Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text; some as exact repetition and some in their own words.
- Use new vocabulary in different contexts.
- Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
- Learn rhymes, poems and songs.
- Engage in non-fiction books.
- Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- See themselves as a valuable individual.
- Build constructive and respectful relationships.
- Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others.
- Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally.
- Think about the perspectives of others.
- Manage their own needs.

Physical Development

- Revise and refine the fundamental movement skills they have already acquired:
 - rolling
 - crawling
 - walking
 - jumping
 - running
 - hopping
 - skipping
 - climbing
- Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.
- Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility needed to engage successfully with future physical education sessions and other physical disciplines including dance, gymnastics, sport and swimming.
- Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.
- Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.
- Combine different movements with ease and fluency.
- Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group.
- Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility.
- Further develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming.
- Develop confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities that involve a ball.
- Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.
- Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing:
 - regular physical activity
 - healthy eating
 - toothbrushing
 - sensible amounts of 'screen time'
 - having a good sleep routine
 - being a safe pedestrian
- Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully:
 - lining up and queuing
 - mealtimes
 - personal hygiene



Reception - Specific Areas

Literacy

- Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them.
- Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter-sound correspondences.
- Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them.
- Read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme.
- Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.
- Re-read these books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment.
- Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.
- Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.
- Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.

Mathematics

- Count objects, actions and sounds.
- Subitise.
- Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value.
- Count beyond ten.
- Compare numbers.
- Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers.
- Explore the composition of numbers to 10.
- Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0–10.
- Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.
- Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can.
- Continue, copy and create repeating patterns.
- Compare length, weight and capacity.

Understanding the World

- Talk about members of their immediate family and community.
- Name and describe people who are familiar to them.
- Comment on images of familiar situations in the past.
- Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.
- Draw information from a simple map.
- Understand that some places are special to members of their community.
- Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.
- Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.
- Explore the natural world around them.
- Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
- Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
- Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills.
- Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.
- Develop storylines in their pretend play.
- Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

