



## Our Pre-School Curriculum

When planning and guiding activities practitioners will reflect upon the different ways that children learn and ensure they utilise this within their practice. The Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

### **Playing and Exploring**

- Supports children's engagement and investigation and experiencing things through being willing to 'have a go!'

### **Creating and Thinking Critically**

- Supports children's thinking skills through developing ideas, making links between differing ideas, and creating strategies for completing a task.

### **Active Learning**

- Supports children's motivation to learn by helping develop their concentration; ability and will to keep trying, when challenges occur;

The children will follow the national EYFS curriculum through a child-led approach. We focus learning on current topical events and the children's own interests to stimulate their creativity in learning and support them in meeting their early learning goals. Research into early child development shows that children learn more rapidly during their first three years than in later life; whilst all areas of learning are important and inter-connected, the three Prime Areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, building their capacity to learn and form relationships and thrive. The Specific Areas will enable them to be self-motivated learners who are confident to succeed. It is our job to ensure that all children experience the awe and wonder of the world in which we live through the seven areas of learning.

### **Prime**

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

### **Specific**

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- The World
- Arts and Design



## **Communication and Language**

Children are provided with the opportunity to experience a language rich environment; develop confidence in expressing their wants, needs and feelings and being able to speak and listen in a variety of contexts.

## **Physical Development:**

We provide opportunities for children to be active and to develop their coordination, control and movement both on a large and small scale. This includes a range of mark making activities and tools that will support the development of hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Our children are encouraged to start to become independent within their personal care, to include washing and drying hands and putting on their own coats. The children will also learn what helps to keep their bodies clean and healthy including their oral health.

## **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Opportunities are provided for children to develop a strong, positive sense of themselves, and of others; form strong attachments and relationships and respect for others. The children are supported in developing their social skills and learn how to manage their own feelings and keep themselves and others safe. This is promoted through using activities such as drama, role-play, puppets, masks and story sacks.

## **Literacy:**

In Early Years we promote the enjoyment of sharing a variety of books including stories, rhymes and jingles. We concentrate on developing the pre-reading and writing skills that children need before learning to read and write. Children's writing develops through several stages before they are ready and able to form letters that are recognisable. The children are developing their gross motor skills daily in a variety of ways through their play. This often involves activities where they are pulling pushing hanging rolling crawling jumping hopping and skipping. This happens throughout the day whilst the children are exploring enhanced provisional opportunities to develop and promote the gross motor skills. Mark making and handwriting is modelled in lots of different play situations to encourage the children to independently make marks to represent their writing. This is modelled by the adults throughout the day in various child led contexts. EYFS children are exposed to lots of different forms of writing and have varied opportunities for purposeful mark making throughout the day. This is closely linked to the Prime Areas of learning particularly Communication and Language and Physical Development.

## **Mathematics**

We provide opportunities to develop and improve counting skills; understanding and using numbers; calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, space and measures.

## **The World**

We support children in making sense of the world around them and their community by providing opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, cultures and traditions as well as technology in the environment.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children are encouraged to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as

encouraging the sharing of thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

### Helping your child at home

The EYFS emphasises that parents are a child's primary educator and therefore encourages parents to contribute to all aspects of their child's learning.

• All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child, it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner:



- Listen to your child and respond appropriately to encourage language development
- Read to your child on a daily basis in a relaxed environment.
- Spend time in the outdoors with your child, such as local parks and nature areas.
- Involve your child in everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning and shopping.
- Encourage your child to be independent, for example by taking off and putting on their own coat.

(01983) 613171 | Email: [admin@nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk) [www.nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk)



