

Askwith CP School

Parents as Partners:

How parents and carers can support learning
in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework that supports the learning, development and care of children from birth to five. It is based on the four principles as outlined below.

- **A unique child** every child is a competent learner from birth and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive Relationships** children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and carers.
- **Enabling environments** the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.
- **Learning and Developing** children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of learning and development are equally important.

The EYFS curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and development. These areas are:

Prime areas

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Specific areas

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive Arts and Design

This does not mean that all of the children's learning is divided up into areas. In one activity they can be developing knowledge, understanding and new skills across several areas of learning at once.

For example, in making and playing with playdough they may go to the shop to buy ingredients (knowledge and understanding of the world), look at a recipe and talk about the instructions (literacy), count out spoonfuls of flour (mathematics), mix and roll out dough (physical), and then use their imagination to make snakes, animals, cakes etc (expressive arts and design).

The EYFS is accessed through a "learning through play" approach where children explore, investigate, problem solve and gain new skills and understanding through play. Children will also experience activities that are more formal and structured in readiness for Key Stage 1.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning relates to your child's dispositions and attitudes and social skills. We are looking for how children interact with others, take turns and share; how they deal with their emotions; how they control their behaviour and consider consequences; and know right from wrong.

It supports them to become independent, excited and motivated learners and lays the foundations for taking responsibility for their learning.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

- Encourage your child to say please and thank you.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves (including choosing clothes to match the weather!)
- Support them in sharing with friends and siblings.
- Allow them to choose some toys themselves and reflect on opinions about these toys; e.g. this is my favourite doll/car.
- Encourage your child to help around the house and take responsibility for tidying up their own toys.
- Try to support your child in taking turns with others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.
- When your child does something they shouldn't encourage them to think about why they did it and why it was wrong.
- Encourage your child to have a go at new things!

Physical Development

Making progress in physical development gives children confidence and enables them to feel the benefits of being healthy and active. This area of learning will encourage your child to use large scale movement and maneuvering, as well as small scale manipulation skills (cutting, threading, drawing). Your child will participate in PE sessions, improving their skills of co-ordination, control and movement and encourage children to become healthy and fit and consider the effects of exercise on their body. Health and Self Care are important in this area of learning.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

- Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment.
- Allow your child to use scissors to develop their skills, can they cut out a picture of their favourite character in a comic?
- Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of travelling, a trip to the park with a playground might help!
- Play games such as follow the leader and change actions to develop motor skills and coordination.
- Discuss changes to their bodies after exercise; heart beating faster, feeling hot etc.
- Encourage activities such as building with lego, drawing, threading beads and filling and emptying containers (maybe in the bath?) and fastening buttons
- Use a pot of water and an old paint brush so your child can "paint" outside
- Playing catching games like piggy in the middle, hot potatoes etc
- _ Ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet unaided and wash their hands.

Communication and Language

This area helps children to develop language through talking, thinking and listening in different situations. Children are encouraged to talk to and listen to their peers and respect each other. Listening carefully and paying attention is also encouraged and understanding what is being said/asked is a key part of this area. Speaking is the final aspect of this area, and children are expected to express themselves clearly using talk.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

- Listening games such as I spy, especially for new words for objects
- Listening play games such as Simon Says or whispering/singing
- Talk about what children like and dislike and why
- Model new vocabulary and see if children can use this
- Use the language of stories
- Bring interesting show and tells that children have practised at home!
- play games involving several instructions/actions
- Talk to children about what might happen next eg. "the sky has gone dark, it must be going to rain"
- Ask "why" questions and encourage children to give explanations
- Singing songs and rhymes for children to join in with
- Talk about experiences and encourage children to tell others eg "at the weekend we went. First we...then we... Finally we..."

Literacy

This area is broken into two sub areas - Reading and Writing.

To support children in their early reading and writing they are encouraged to mark make, enjoy stories, books and rhymes and link sounds and letters.

They begin to explore books and reading, including listening to stories and joining in if appropriate. They will make up stories retell them to others. Children will learn phonemes and graphemes (sounds and letters) and are encouraged to read and write when possible, including through role play.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

Allow your child to select books for themselves; ones that interest him/her. Picture books with repetitive and basic language are often a good starting point. A trip to the library is often talked about at school!

Encourage your child to 'read' what is happening in the pictures. Prompt them to tell you a sentence about what is happening.

Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of the letter and the sounds that they make.

Make shapes of letters out of play dough; write them in sand, write their own name in the air etc.

Encourage your child to sing/say songs and rhymes and tell you their own stories.

Ask your child about words that rhyme, e.g. house and mouse.

Act out stories for your family, or use toys

Model writing of shopping lists, birthday cards and encourage the children to contribute

Mathematics

This area of learning includes developing mathematical understanding through stories, songs, games, everyday activities and imaginative play so that children enjoy experimenting with and become confident and curious about numbers, shapes, patterns and measures. It relates to how your child can solve problems independently using their own ideas and working with others.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

- Practice counting at every opportunity! Socks, cars, conkers, sheep in a field, pictures in stories ... Ask questions such as how many altogether? Which number is one more/one less?
- Count out loud with your child saying the names of numbers clearly, stressing TEEN numbers (especially 13 and 15!)
- Show and name numbers to your child at all opportunities, including TV remotes and channels, telephones, car number plates, clocks, page numbers, money (coins and notes),
- Sing songs or rhymes with numbers in them; 10 In The Bed, 5 Little Ducks, 10 Fat Sausages, 5 cheeky monkeys etc.
- Read stories with numbers in them, e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar,
- Use mathematical language; add, take away, number names, find the difference
- Count on using fingers (put 3 in my head, add 2 using fingers)
- Encourage children to identify shapes around them; do a circle spotting hunt, square spotting etc.
- Apply mathematics to real life; shape, money, and shopping, amounts of objects, weighing and measuring etc
- Sort objects eg can your child sort out the cutlery and set the table for 3 people?
- Order length eg can your child pair up different shoes then order them in size? Order objects according to weight (which is heavy and light)
- Finding patterns (eg wallpaper) and copying them
- Playing board games like snakes and ladders for counting on
- Sharing objects eg There's 4 apples and 2 of us, how many shall we have each? Or there's 2 apples and 4 of us, how can we share them?

Understanding of the World

In this area of learning, children develop knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of and understand the world around them. This includes using programmable toys and computers, TV and other electrical equipment. Children begin to learn about other cultures and beliefs and may enjoy participating in festivals in their own and other cultures. This area of learning is the foundation for later work in history, geography, science, design technology and ICT.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

- Talk to your child about special times; birthdays, baptism and other key events in their lives and the lives of others they know.]
- Talk about your family, culture, religion and where you live.
- Encourage children to use their senses to describe what they see, hear, smell, touch, taste (perhaps if they try a new food)
- Encourage them to explore their surroundings; particularly in the outdoor area. A simple walk can do this!
- Allow your child to observe animals and if safe handle them, and describe them.
- Allow them to use simple tools; such as a small hand trowel.
- Encourage them to feel different textured objects and describe; rough, smooth, soft etc.
- Encourage children to ask questions and model these such as.... what if...? why do you think...? how did you...?
- Let children join in with everyday activities - washing up, cooking, shopping, helping in the garden...

Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning includes art, music, dance, drama and imaginative play . Role play provides opportunities for children to relive experiences familiar to them and create new experiences. Creativity is an important part of successful learning; it enables children to make connections between experiences, solve problems and be inventive.

How you can help / things to note in the home-school diary

- Allow your child to listen to and sing songs and rhymes. Can they sing a song they have learnt in front of grandparents, siblings etc
- Engage in role play with your child, or talk about where you have been eg a trip to the vets, supermarket, post office, bank, bus journey etc
- Collect souvenirs of places you have been tickets/tokens/receipts, leaflets etc
- Create a collage to represent a walk... leaves, photographs, shells, seeds
- Explore different media; paint, pencils, crayons, glitter,
- Using scissors and glue; encourage cutting and sticking activities
- Dance to songs and make up actions to complement; e.g. Wheels on the Bus, Head Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Here are some examples of what you might include in the home-school learning diary. Please do not feel that you need to have done something "special" - playing at home is fine!

Writing (parent voice or child voice)

"We went out for a walk in the fields, it had snowed a bit in the night and we made a very small snowman. I noticed that the pond had frozen over."

"I tried some stew for the first time. It smelt nice and tasted nice so I ate it all up!"

"Gemma spent Saturday playing with her cousins. She let them play with her toys and took turns to play on the bikes."

"I played with my train track. I sorted the trains into colours then ordered them in size."

Photographs

A photograph provides opportunities for children to discuss this at length.

"I played dressing up as a space man with my sister. This is us just landing on the moon"

Sam finished this jigsaw all by himself.

Scrap book style

Here is the ticket from our bus trip. Joe counted there were 3 stops before we got off.

Here is the receipt from our trip to the shop. I gave the money to the lady and she gave me some change.