

The Early Years Foundation Stage and Areas of Learning



The period of time your child spends developing and learning from birth to when they are five years old at the end of Reception year is called 'Early Years'.

Whilst your child is in Nursery or Reception they will be assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework. This is a statutory document that all early years providers must follow, and includes learning and development as well as safeguarding and welfare requirements. The updated version of the EYFS Framework has been effective since September 2021.

The EYFS is divided into 7 areas of learning. They are divided into two sections:

- **Prime Areas of Learning:**

These are Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development. They are important for building foundations in your child's development.

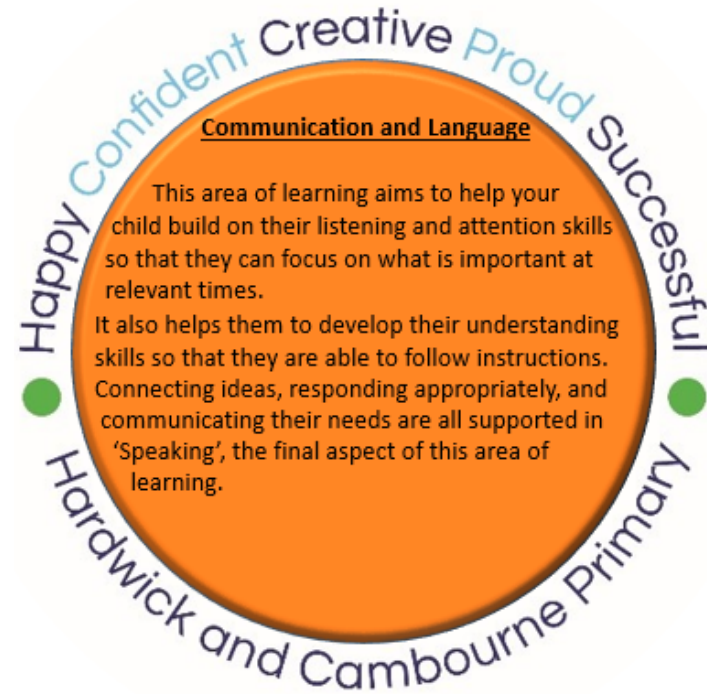
- **Specific Areas of Learning:**

These are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design. They are where the prime areas are used, developed and applied.

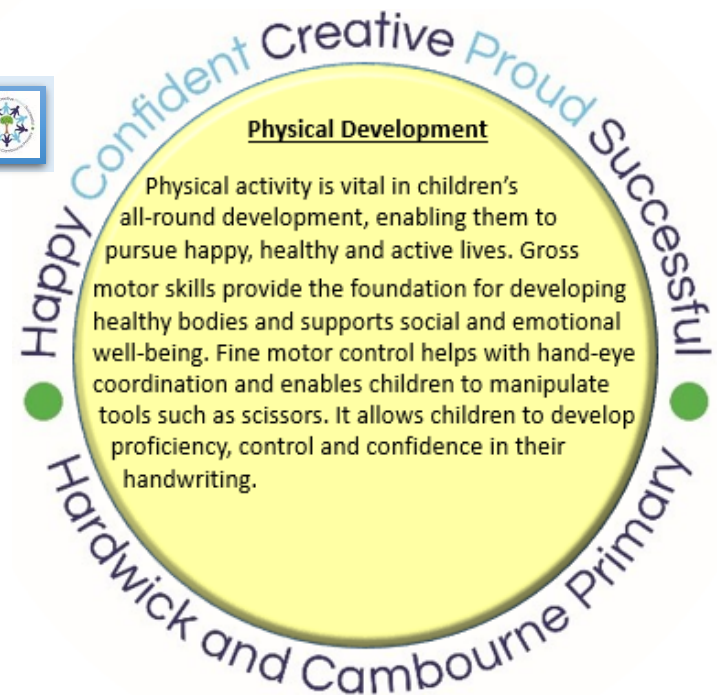
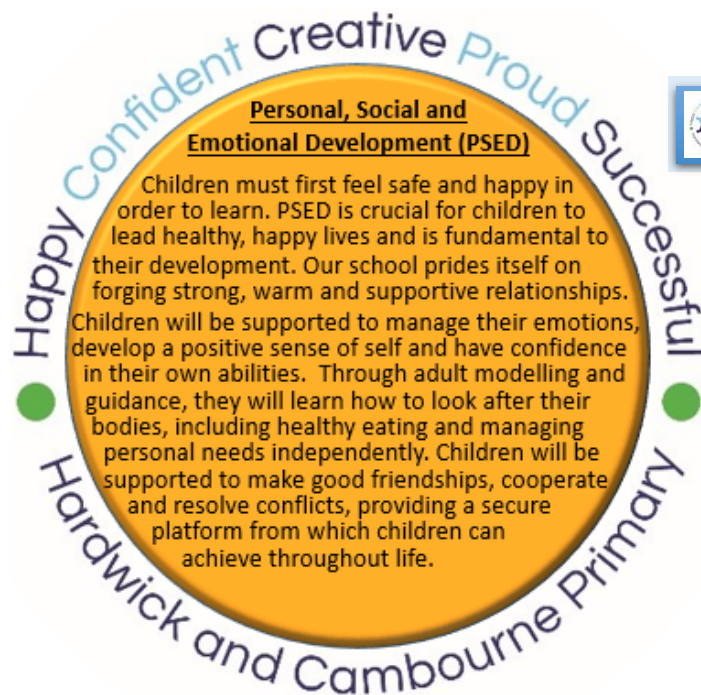
The new Development Matters has been effective since September 2021. Development Matters is not a checklist of things that your child should do, rather it is guidance for adults who work with children, to help them to support and embed your child's learning journey. We have taken Development Matters and combined it with key skills we want our children to acquire, in order to create our own unique curriculum and pedagogy here at Hardwick & Cambourne. This creates an environment where children are valued and become confident, creative and independent learners, reflecting our Early Years ethos.

Early Learning Goals (ELGs)

The ELGs set out the expected level of development to be attained by children by the time they reach the end of Reception. There are 17 ELGs, one for each of the sections that make up the 7 Areas of Learning. At the end of Reception we assess your children and we will use our professional judgement and knowledge of each child when considering whether they are at the expected level of development.



Prime Areas of Learning



Literacy

Sharing stories with your child helps to develop a range of vocabulary and a love of reading. Reading consists of 2 dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension develops from birth when adults talk with children about the world around them and through the books they read and the rhymes, poems and songs enjoyed together. Skilled word reading and writing is taught during the Reception year and here at HCCPS we have developed our own Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme which supports every child on their journey to becoming proficient and confident readers and writers.

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Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Understanding the amount each numeral represents, the different ways it can be created and spotting patterns in number will help your child to become confident in their approach to number. Being able to develop an understanding of shape, space and measures are also important skills covered in this area. We encourage children to develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns in relationships, spot connections and 'have a go'.

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Specific Areas of Learning



Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and community. Children are encouraged to explore the awe and wonder of the natural world. Being able to experience things in their local community and culture as well as other communities and cultures enables them to appreciate the similarities and differences in the world. This area provides the foundation for children to become well-rounded global citizens.

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Expressive Arts and Design

This area allows children to engage with the arts, developing their artistic and cultural awareness alongside their imagination and creativity. It enables them to explore and play with a wide range of tools and materials. Children use their imaginations in pretend play, make up songs and stories, and respond to music through sound and movement.

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