# 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.

Creative Processing Communication and Language

This area of learning aims to help your child build on their listening and attention skills so that they can focus on what is important at relevant times.

It also helps them to develop their understanding skills so that they are able to follow instructions. Connecting ideas, responding appropriately, and communicating their needs are all supported in

To learning.

John Cambourner

Prime Areas of Learning

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Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's

round development, enabling them to

healthy and active lives. Gross

and emotional

d-eye coordination and enables children to manipulate tools such as scissors. It allows children to develop proficiency, control and confidence in their

To handwriting.

And Cambourne printing.

Personal, Social and
Emotional Development (PSED)

Children must first feel safe and happy in order to learn. PSED is crucial for children to lead healthy, happy lives and is fundamental to their development. Our school prides itself on forging strong, warm and supportive relationships. Children will be supported to manage their emotions develop a positive sense of self and have confidence in their own abilities. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating and managing personal needs independently. Children will be supported to make good friendships, cooperate and resolve conflicts, providing a secure platform from which children can achieve throughout life. personal needs independently. Children will be

Sharing stories with your child helps to develop a rooms of 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.



Mathematics

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Mathematics 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'.



**Specific Areas of Learning** 



Understandia ...

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 To well-rounce. We provides the foundation for children to become

dent Creative Pro

### **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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