

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum at Aslacton Primary school

Young children are constantly encountering new experiences and seeking to make sense of what is new to them. In order to build upon what they already know, they learn through a variety of different learning styles. Playing, talking, listening, questioning, observing, experimenting, testing and repeating are all ways in which children are able to consolidate their learning. It is with this in mind that the Early Year Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) has been developed.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is applicable to children from Birth to the end of their Reception Year in school. The seven areas of learning within the Foundation Stage are:

Prime areas of learning

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

Specific Areas of learning

- Literacy
- Mathematical Development
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

All of the areas are very much interlinked. Skills that are learnt in one area, often help to develop understanding in another area of the curriculum.

At Aslacton Primary school, we are lucky to have access to a very wide variety of equipment and resources. Owl class have access to two adjoining classrooms, one of which is laid out specifically for independent play and investigation. The children have access to a 'loft' for role play and story telling and a purpose built outdoor area ensuring that free-flow play happens daily.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Successful personal, emotional and social development is critical for young children. It affects all aspects of their lives and all areas of their learning. It is all about them having belief in themselves, developing social competence, developing respect for others and a positive disposition to learn. Children take part in regular circle time activities, designed to develop confidence and speaking and listening skills.

Communication and Language

Learning in this area includes speaking and listening for a variety of purposes and situations. At Aslacton school, we ensure that children have many opportunities to develop their social skills through regular speaking and listening activities. As the Reception children are constantly learning from the Key Stage one children in the class, they often discuss and share ideas that are quite advanced for a Reception child! Later on in the Reception year, the children are able to take part in Public Speaking activities, which always brings great enjoyment.

Physical Development

Physical development in the Early Years Foundation Stage is about improving the children's skills of co-ordination, control, movement and manipulation. The children feel the benefits of physical exercise. They also gain confidence in what they can do. At Aslacton, Reception children take part in regular PE and Dance lessons with KS1, where the focus is on improving coordination, stamina, perseverance and specific skills using balls, bats and a wide variety of other equipment. Physical skills are constantly developed in the classroom, through manipulating paintbrushes, pencils and tools. The children practise their gross motor skills constantly in the outdoor area, when riding bikes, balancing and handling equipment.

Literacy

Ensuring that children become independent readers and writers is at the heart of our curriculum as we believe that acquiring these skills, enables the children to excel at a wealth of other subjects. Children learn to write for a variety of purposes. They are read to and learn to read a wide range of books and texts as well as developing the skills that they need to become independent writers. During the year, we focus on a variety of 'Core Stories', which the children become very familiar with and writing activities are often based around. Children also participate in our Big Talk activities and then Big Write along with KS1 children as they become more independent writers. Phonics skills are taught daily through a range of games and fun activities. All literacy activities, alongwith the other areas in the YEFS, are taught primarily through play.

Mathematical Development

Children's mathematical development comes from being immersed in a rich and interesting environment. They need to become confident and competent in learning and using key mathematical skills. This aspect of learning involves the children in counting, sorting, matching, looking for patterns and relationships and working with number, shapes, space and measure.



Understanding the World

This area of the curriculum focuses upon the children developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of their world. It forms a sound foundation for later work in science, design technology, history, geography and information technology (ICT). Activities are based on a wide range of first-hand experiences that promote exploration, problem solving and decision making.

Expressive Arts and Design

It is through creative development that children are able to make connections between one area of learning and another. This area of learning includes dance, drama, role-play, art, music and imaginative play.



