

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Workshop

September 2020



Aims of the Session

To give an overview of The Early Years Curriculum - Prime and Specific Areas of Learning

What learning in the EYFS is really like

How will I know how my child is progressing in the EYFS?

How can I help with my child's learning at home?

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The time in your child's life between birth and age 5
- This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes
- Legal document- Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. It sets out:
 - ❖ Welfare requirements - ensure child's safety
 - ❖ 7 areas of learning and development
 - ❖ Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS
 - ❖ Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)"

How my child will be learning

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 **prime areas** first. These are:

- ▶ Communication and language;
- ▶ Physical development; and
- ▶ Personal, social and emotional development.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 **specific areas**. These are:

- ▶ Literacy;
- ▶ Mathematics;
- ▶ Understanding the world; and
- ▶ Expressive arts and design.

How my child will be learning

- ▶ These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Staff working with your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your **child's unique needs and interests.**
- ▶ Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

How can I help with my 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.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be learning to:

- Become self-confident
- Know what their own needs are
- Develop positive relationships with adults and peers
- Tell the difference between right and wrong





How can I help with my child's learning?

- ▶ Try playing some simple board or card games together or try working together to build a jigsaw puzzle.
- ▶ Encourage your child to talk about their friends and arrange opportunities to invite friends round for tea or meet up at a park for the children to play together.
- ▶ Encourage children to talk about their likes and dislikes in terms of activities they like and do not like to do. Encourage them to explain their thoughts and feelings.
- ▶ Encourage children to be independent but to ask for help when needed. Discuss different feelings - try acting out different emotions for children to identify.
- ▶ Discuss plans and routines and encourage children to talk about their daily activities.





Physical Development

The children will be learning to:

- Move with control and co-ordination
- Dress and undress independently and manage their own personal care
- Handle a range of tools and equipment including pencils for writing
- Develop fine and gross motor skills

Handwriting

- Letter formation will be taught using the Kinetic Letters programme.
- Remember to only use capitals for names and places.
- Children will learn how to write their name.





How can you help?

- ▶ As a family, try some different active activities! You could try; dancing, playing football, going for walks, riding a bike or going swimming.
- ▶ Encourage children to try using different types of materials and simple tools. Provide playdough or salt dough to knead and make model, as well as beads to thread onto laces. You could also provide tools, such as child-safe scissors, paintbrushes, crayons, and child-safe knives and forks.
- ▶ Encourage your child to get dressed/ undressed independently and manage their own personal hygiene (such as washing their hands and brushing their teeth).
- ▶ Encourage your child to talk about healthy food choices. Go shopping with your child and talk about healthy foods and why a balanced diet is important.



Communication and Language

- Listening and Attention
- Understanding and following instructions
- Speaking
- Enjoy listening to stories, songs and poems





How can you help?

- Initiate conversations with your child, ask questions and demonstrate how to be a good listener.
- Share rhymes, songs, books and stories. Talk about what is happening in the stories or rhymes. With a familiar rhyme or book, stop suddenly and ask your child to continue, or you could accidentally get the words 'wrong' and your child could correct you!
- Model correct sentence structure and words - instead of over correcting your child, repeat words or sentences, e.g. if your child says "buyed an apple" say "Yes, you bought an apple."
- When you have a holiday, a day out or a trip somewhere, work together to create a record of the event, such as a photo, collection of objects or a drawing, which you can talk about later.
- Talk about your children's interests and encourage them to learn and use new vocabulary.





Literacy

The children will be learning to:

- Link sounds to letters, naming and sounding letters of the alphabet
- Read and write familiar words





How can you help?

- ▶ Share pleasure in reading with your child. Share books together and join a local library. Encourage your child to look at a range of different books such as, stories, poems, information books and comics. Talk about favourite stories and characters.
- ▶ Practise identifying letter sounds (phonics). Look for letters you see when you visit different places and demonstrate reading the words.
- ▶ Make word and letter sound cards for sounds or words your child finds tricky. Try saying them in funny voices to help practising them more fun!
- ▶ Encourage your child to explore writing using different materials such as pencils, chalk, crayons and pens. They could try writing letters into a tray of sand or flour using a finger or try painting letters onto a pavement using a paintbrush and water.
- ▶ Demonstrate different purposes for writing such as writing a shopping list, writing a greetings card or a postcard when on holiday. Encourage children to try writing for different purposes too and praise them for their efforts.



Mathematics



- Teaches children to count up to 20 and beyond.
- Encourages children to recognise, write and order numbers to 20.
- Teaches the skills and understanding for adding and take away.
- Encourages children to use mathematical words when talking about capacity, position, distance, time and money.
- Supports children's understanding of shape and size including 2D and 3D shapes.

How can you help?

- ▶ Look for numbers when you visit different places. Talk about house numbers, car number plates, prices of goods in the supermarket, etc. Challenge children to identify the numbers and say which number is one more or one less than the ones they see.
- ▶ Play dice games with your child such as snakes and ladders.
- ▶ Talk about simple addition and subtraction in practical ways. Use toys or other items to demonstrate addition by counting on and subtraction by counting back.
- ▶ Look for 2D and 3D shapes around the house or when out and about and ask your child to describe them. Encourage the use of correct terms such as 'sides' and 'corners'. Build models or pictures using empty packaging or paper shapes and talk about the shapes used.
- ▶ Compare size, weight and capacity. Get your child using words like 'longer', 'shorter', 'taller', 'heavier', 'lighter', 'full' and 'empty'. Talk about things you see in the world around you, or create opportunities for comparison, perhaps by rolling playdough snakes ('Can you make a longer/ shorter one?') or pouring water into different cups during bath time.





Understanding the World

- Find out about the world around them, asking questions about it (plants, animals and materials.)
- Know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for.
- Find out about past and present events in their own lives and their families' lives.
- Find out about different cultures and beliefs.





How can you help?

- ▶ Talk about special events in your family, such as holidays, weddings, birthdays and celebrations. Maybe bring in a souvenir to show the class!
- ▶ Take a trip to a park and look at the plants, insects and animals.
- ▶ Explore different weather conditions and talk about seasonal changes in the world around you.
- ▶ Go on a technology treasure hunt at home! Talk to your child about how we make these things work and how to use them safely.
- ▶ Look at different types of technology when you're out and about. They could explore using a camera to take photos on days out too.



Expressive Arts and Design

- The children will explore:
- Singing songs, making music and dance
- A variety of materials, tools and techniques
- Experiment with colour
- Represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.



How can you help?

- ▶ Try some different creative activities using a variety of different materials such as; making musical instrument models using empty packaging, collage activities to make pictures using wool or coloured paper and mix colours of paint to paint pictures.
- ▶ Encourage children to sing their favourite songs and listen to music.
- ▶ Try using some toys or make some puppets and create your own story!
- ▶ Try setting up a pretend shop, restaurant, hairdressers salon, workshop or classroom. Role play as customers and shopkeepers, etc. and create stories and scenes together.



How can I find out how my child is getting on?

- ▶ It is important that you and the professionals caring for your child work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will either need to be with your child's "key person/ class teacher". This is the person who:
 - ▶ Is your main point of contact within the setting
 - ▶ Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe
 - ▶ Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning
 - ▶ Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home
 - ▶ You should be able to get information about your child's development at any time and there are two stages (at age 2, and again at age 5) when the professionals caring for your child must give you written information about how he or she is doing.

When your child is 2

- ▶ At some point after your child turns 2, the professionals working with your child must give you a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning:
- ▶ communication and language;
- ▶ physical development; and
- ▶ personal, social and emotional development.
- ▶ This is called the progress check at age 2.
- ▶ This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and any where they might need some extra help or support - and how mums and dads and other family members or carers can work with the key person to help. You might find it useful to share the information from the check with other professionals such as health visitors (who can use it as part of the health and development review).

When your child is 5

- ▶ At the end of the EYFS - in the summer term of the reception year in school - teachers complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.
- ▶ Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let your child's class teacher know about what your child does with you: such as how confident your child is in writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers.
- ▶ All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year - year 1 - will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it.
- ▶ The school will give you a report of your child's progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile.

Early Learning Goals

- 17 goals in total
- Each point is assessed separately
- Children work towards these goals throughout the year and are assessed in the Summer Term against each ELG and awarded 'emerging, expected or exceeding.'

Observation based assessment

- We learn about the children through observation.
- We focus on their achievements across all areas of the curriculum.
- We identify next steps for learning.

Interventions

- Throughout the Early Years, if a child's progress in any area gives cause for concern, practitioners discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child.
- Practitioners will consider whether a child may have a special educational need or disability which requires specialist support. They should link with, and help families to access, relevant services from other agencies as appropriate.

Promoting Fundamental British Values within the Early Years Foundation Stage

At Amblecote we promote the Fundamental British Values of;

- ▶ Democracy,
- ▶ The rule of law,
- ▶ Individual liberty,
- ▶ Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

How can you can contribute

- Send in WOW moments
 - E-mail Photos
- Bring in awards/certificates
 - Reading Champions
- Write comments in reading diaries and homework books



And Finally...

- If you have any concerns or questions please contact us and we will do our best to help you.
- We look forward to working with you and your child this year.