

**+**  
Early Years  
Foundation  
Stage

Nursery and Reception  
information for new parents



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.



**+**  
We monitor and record your child's progress and learning during their time in the foundation stage.

Each child has a special book that is available for you to see at any time and shared with you at parent evenings through the year.

## EYFS guiding principles

These guide and shape our practice.

We recognise that every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;

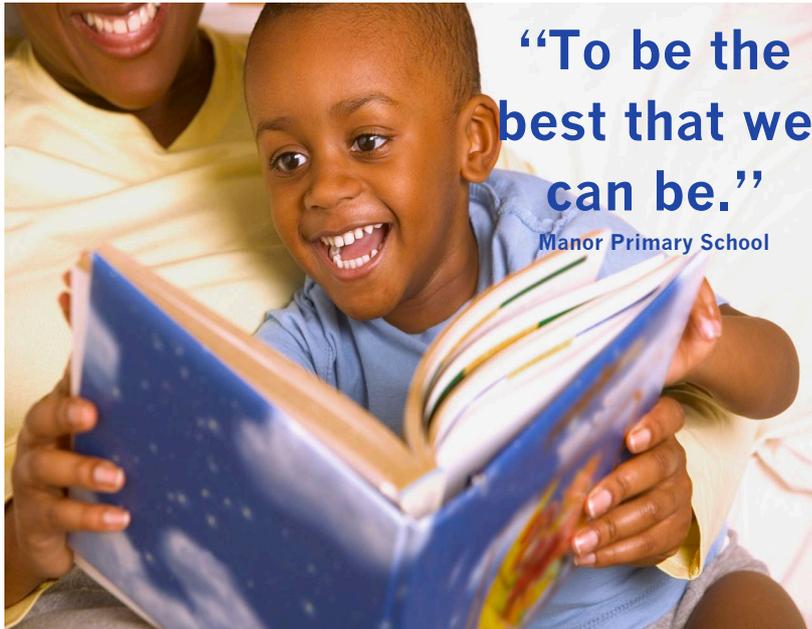
We know that children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.

We support children to learn and develop well in our **enabling environment**, in which their experiences respond to their individual

needs and we aim to build a strong partnership with parents and/or carers.

We know that children **develop and learn** in different ways and at different rates.

The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.



We are guided by research that shows that three characteristics of effective learning are:

- **Playing and Exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’
- **Active Learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **Creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

## Areas of Learning and Development

### Prime Areas

The Early Years curriculum works towards children achieving the Early Learning Goals at the end of reception. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

**Communication and language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations

**Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

**Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.



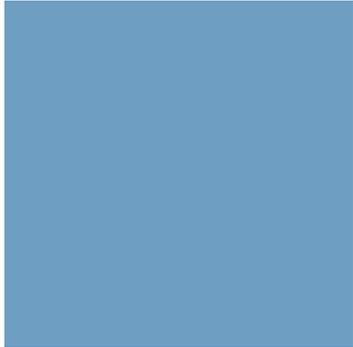
**“Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity.**

**Play is essential for children’s development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others.”**

Find out more about the Early Years Foundation stage from

[www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

which also has resources and links for parents and carers



## + Specific Areas

We also support children's learning in four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

**Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

**Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

**Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

**Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

## Supporting the EYFS at home...

- ✓ Spend lots of time talking with your child;
- ✓ Read plenty of books together;
- ✓ Encourage your child to take part in lots of activities – digging in the garden, visiting interesting places, taking part in sports.
- ✓ Play games together – spending quality time with your child is the very best way to help him or her learn and develop.
- ✓ Let us know if your child does something new or interesting.
- ✓ Let us know if you have any concerns or worries about your child.

### Home activity:

In both nursery and reception children will have the opportunity to take books home to share as well as a range of home activities that support their learning in literacy and mathematics