



Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum overview

At Dunston the Nursery and Reception classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The children learn through purposeful, play activities centred around their interests. These are carefully planned to provide a broad and balanced experience for the children. We focus our activities around the 7 areas of learning of the EYFS curriculum.

The Prime Areas:

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.

We develop our children's positive sense of themselves and teach about having respect for oneself and others, developing social skills and a good attitude to learning. To give our children the best opportunities through Positive Relationships, adults form caring relationships with all children. In Enabling Environments opportunities for play and learning are created that help children embrace differences between themselves and others. Learning and Development experiences are planned to promote all round development.

PSED is made up of these aspects:

- Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness
- Managing Feelings and Behaviour
- Making Relationships

Communication and Language

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.

We provide our children with opportunities for speaking and listening and ignite interest in reading and writing. To give the best opportunities for developing Communication and Language Positive Relationships support our children to communicate their ideas and thoughts with each other and with adults. Our Enabling Environments contain signs, symbols, words, songs and notices. We also have books and pictures that take into account interests, backgrounds and cultures.

CL is made up of these aspects:

- Listening and attention
- Understanding
- Speaking

Physical Development

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

We provide opportunities for our children to be active and develop their co-ordination, manipulation and movement. We develop their understanding of the importance of being physically active and eating healthily. To give our children the best opportunities through Positive Relationships they are supported in their understanding of exercise, sleep and eating to promote health. Activities in Enabling Environments both indoors and outdoors encourage energetic physical play. In Learning and Development, our snack times promote social skills and the importance of making healthy food choices.

PD is made up of these aspects:

- Moving and Handling
- Health and Self-Care

The Specific Areas

Literacy

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

LD is made up of these aspects

- Reading
- Writing

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. This area supports children's understanding in different situations, we provide opportunities to explore, practise, learn and talk. The children practise skills and gain confidence and competence. We give children the best opportunities through Positive Relationships to use mathematical words and ideas in their play. Our Enabling Environments have resources for counting, calculating and shape available indoors and outdoors. In Learning and Development, stories, songs and imaginative play help with mathematical understanding.

Mathematics is made up of these aspects:

- Numbers
- Shape, Space 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.

We offer children opportunities to explore and observe the environment, living things and objects. To give our children the best opportunities through Positive Relationships, parents' and carers' knowledge extend children's experiences of the world. In Enabling Environments, open-ended questions like, "How can we..?" and "What would happen if...?" are used. Learning and Development is based on first-hand experiences to observe, predict, make decisions and discuss.

UW is made up of these aspects:

- People and Communities
- The World
- Technology

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.

We support children's curiosity and play. They explore and share their thinking, ideas and feelings in music, in art, movement and dance, role play and technology. We give our children the best opportunities through Positive Relationships, our children value their unique ideas and those of others rather than reproducing those of someone else. Our Enabling Environments are stimulating and originality and expressiveness are valued. Learning and Development experiences allow children to express themselves through various types of representation.

EAD is made up of these aspects:

- Exploring and Using Media and Materials
- Being Imaginative