

Our Curriculum

At Maple Bloom our curriculum is focused around the British EYFS, which is the national framework in England for babies up to reception age.

The EYFS program offers a framework and structure that follows the natural growth process of a child. The ethos of the program is very holistic and is initiated from a child led interest. The areas the framework covers, provides a development process that nurtures the child to establish a firm foundation from which learning stems. We chart our planning around this framework, ensuring to include indoors, outdoors and sensory activities to foster this growth.

The EYFS not only sets out expected developmental milestones in the **seven Areas of Learning and Development** as well as developmental links, but also supports those working with EYFS age children in providing the correct support, provisions, and learning environment to best enable children to thrive and develop as well as be happy and healthy!

The key focus during EYFS is on teaching children routine and easing them into the idea of learning in a structured environment. This gets kids ready for beginning more formal teaching for example in Key Stage 1.

The Seven Areas

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of learning and development that are categorised as prime areas and specific areas. The three prime areas is what children mostly develop first and is essential for future learning. As the child grows and reaches 36 months, the learning from the prime areas is then applied and reinforced by four specific areas. The seven areas are as follows,

Prime Areas -

1. Communication and language - This allows the child to express their feelings and speak and listen in a range of different situations.
2. Physical development - This gives all children the opportunity to be interactive and active!
3. Personal, emotional and social development - Helps to develop all young people's social skills, develop a positive image of themselves while understanding how to behave in certain situations and environments.

Specific Areas -

4. Mathematics - This gives the children the opportunity to develop and improve their counting, calculating and number skills. It also enables them to be able to describe different shapes, measures and spaces.
5. Literacy - This encourages and teaches children the first steps of learning how to read and write.

6. Expressive arts and design - Involves playing and exploring using a wide range of materials, technology and media which encourages them to express their feelings through role play, design and movements.
7. Understanding the world - This helps to guide children about the world, different communities, places, people and technology.

Early Years Assessment:

Assessments take place regularly in EYFS through the form of observations - rather than formal testing. A child's progress is reviewed around two to three years old, before they start more structured learning, and again at the end of reception before they move on to school. The goals and expected development for early years children across the seven areas of learning and development, as well as changes between different ages and stages and these expectations, will inform practitioners observations.

Children in early years will all have a **learning journey** where the observations about the child are recorded. EYFS practitioners will observe children as they play to understand the child's current attainment and to plan for their next steps. These observations form the majority of EYFS assessments and are shared with parents and carers.

Parents and carers are also invited to contribute their own observations of their child's learning at home so that a more complete picture of a child's development can be achieved.

Early Learning Goals:

At the end of the reception year, children are assessed against an **Early Learning Goal** in each area. These goals may inform observations at earlier ages and can offer a good insight or structure when reading or writing a child's learning journey.

They are considered '**emerging**' or '**expected**' within each area.

You can view the [Early Learning Goals by clicking here.](#)

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning at EYFS:

A common misconception that occurs within EYFS is that children 'just play'. However, practitioners understand that play can lead to valuable learning.

The EYFS has Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning, which are key characteristics that children develop within their play. These characteristics of effective teaching and learning ensure that children gain the skills which underpin their learning and development

- **Playing and exploring** shows how the child is engaging as they investigate and experience things first-hand.

- **Active learning**, which shows how a child is motivated to keep on trying when they encounter difficulties or how they enjoy achievements.
- **Creating and thinking critically** shows the process of thought behind learning, developing their own ideas and creating strategies for carrying these out.

What does the EYFS say about play?

- Play in the Early Years Foundation Stage is essential to young children. Through play, children will learn and develop in all seven areas of EYFS. Children will be able to engage creativity and team-building skills with solo and group play, all of which can benefit their Communication and Language development.
- By deviating between indoor and outdoor play, it can help children with their learning outcomes on Understanding the World, as well as giving them opportunities to explore new ideas and engage problem-solving skills. Equally, by using play to teach children about a range of events and also the necessity of proper safety precautions, you can relate it to their History and Personal, Social and Emotional Development outcomes.

Adult-led Learning:

Adult-led learning forms key elements of the EYFS curriculum, particularly when helping children to develop specific skills. Children, particularly in reception, will also engage with some more 'formal' learning techniques.

For example, children will be involved in carpet sessions, often with a specific focus. Sometimes this focus may be around phonics or maths and on other occasions, it may be based around Understanding the World or Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

You can learn more about the EYFS and what to expect by clicking on the below guides.

[Parents' Guide to the EYFS](#)

[What to Expect, When?](#)

[Development Matters \(We use this as guidance for learning outcomes at age bands\)](#)