

St. James' School



THE AREAS OF LEARNING IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

A Guide for Parents/Carers

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development. (PSED)

This area of learning is all about children being able to establish relationships with other children and adults.

Its aim is to encourage children to develop independence and make choices for themselves. In their setting, opportunities will be planned to develop their confidence and personality.

Children will experience moral issues and discover the differences between gender, religion, special needs and disabilities through books, visits, displays and role play.

Children will learn to be part of a larger group outside the family unit.

"This area of learning is about emotional well-being knowing who you are and where you fit in and feeling good about yourself. It is also about developing respect for others, social competence and a positive disposition to learning".

What activities will the children experience in settings to develop personal, social and emotional development?

- Provide role play situations (house, shop and library) where children can develop relationships and act out real life situations.
- Encourage children to have respect for each other and their feelings.
- Children will be told what their boundaries are and positive behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded.
- Learn to share equipment and take turns when playing.
- Through the day children will be reminded of their manners - Please, thank you.

How can I help my child at home?

- Praise your child when they have done something good or tried hard.
- Talk to your child about things that are right and wrong. Set clear boundaries.
- Encourage your child to be independent, help them to learn how to dress, wash and toilet themselves.
- Listen to your child and ask them about their experiences outside the family home.

2. Communication, Language and Literacy.(CLL)

This area of learning is all about using and developing skills needed to communicate with one another.

This includes:

Talking

Listening

Reading

Writing

Children will be given lots of opportunities to talk about their feelings and experiences.

Through listening they will hear a variety of books, poems and rhymes.

Activities will be planned to develop early reading and writing.

What activities will they experience in settings to develop communication, language and literacy?

- Children will be given lots of opportunities to develop conversations with adults and peers, through creative activities, role play, construction toys, games and discussions.
- From the beginning children develop an interest and a love for books - book corners, story tapes, rhymes and displays. They will be shown how to follow the words and guess the endings.
- Through first-hand experiences such as baking, sand, water play, children will be encouraged to express their feelings.
- In role play and on writing tables, there will be lots of activities to develop writing skills such as pretend writing.
- Listening skills will be developed through story time, the giving of instructions and games.

How can I help my child at home?

- Read stories to your child. Share books.
- Encourage them to play with pencils, pen and paper.
- Make time to listen and talk to your child, when you are doing jobs - tell them what you are doing. Encourage them to ask questions.
- Ask the child to tell you about the things they are doing and show them you are listening.

- Show your child that print is everywhere - shop names, names of sweets, television.
- Take your child to the library - let them choose their books.

3. Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy. (PSRN)

This area of learning is all about developing mathematical skills to build the foundations for all future mathematical learning.

This includes:

Counting

Sorting

Matching

Finding patterns

Working with numbers

Shapes and space

Measures

Children will experience mathematics through practical investigations, stories, songs, games and role play.

What activities will they experience in settings to develop mathematical skills?

- A rich number environment will be created with numbers and equipment. Making children number aware through the use of number lines, dominoes, counting rhymes and number games.
- Encourage children to estimate, count and order numbers to 10 and beyond.
- Use mathematical language such as "more" "less" "share" "fewer" "how many" "altogether".
- Use real objects - boxes, tins, toys to illustrate and feel 3D shapes - cubes, cuboids, sort 2D shapes triangles, squares, circles, rectangles. Make models and pictures using 2D and 3D shapes.
- Children will experience weight and capacity through sand and water play.
- Use bricks to build towers and find the shortest and tallest.

How can I help my child at home?

- Encourage your child to observe that numbers are everywhere - house numbers, road signs, prices, telephones and number plates.

- Ask your child to help sort washing into colours.
- Make patterns with everyday objects - spoon, fork and knife or count the cutlery needed at meal times.
- Look for shapes in the home, in the street, in the shop and toys.
- Talk about the size of clothes, shoes, compare with adults, brothers, sisters.
- Count items - the stairs, toys, books, fingers.
- At bath time provide children with containers to experiment with capacity - developing concepts like full and empty.
- Talk about the days of the week. The time - bedtime, dinnertime etc.

4. Knowledge and Understanding of the World. (KUW)

This area of learning is all about making sense of the world the children are growing up in, making them aware of the things, places and people around them.

Developing the foundation for future learning in the National Curriculum subject areas of

Science

History

Geography

Design and technology

Information and communication technology

Children will be given many opportunities to experience activities first-hand through investigations and experiments.

What activities will they experience to develop a knowledge and understanding of the world?

- Children will be given lots of experiences which are practical and enable them to explore and investigate for themselves.
- They will be taken out on visits to see for themselves their own environment.
- Children may observe the growth of seeds over a period of time. Watch what happens to snow when it is brought inside.
- Use a variety of tools for different activities such as spades, scissors, saws, cutters.

- Children will use equipment like computers, tape recorders and examine how telephones and radios work.
- Children will be encouraged to draw and plan special events.
- Experience the foods and stories from other cultures and countries.

How can I help my child at home?

- Encourage children to use their senses. What does it smell like? Ask children to feel different textures, allow them to develop their vocabulary to describe them.
- Talk to your child about the changes in the weather and the seasons.
- Talk about events in the past and the future.
- When walking or travelling talk about and name different landmarks, animals and plants.
- Through books and television, discuss the differences between other countries and cultures. This could be as simple as explaining that we are eating Chinese food or that pizza is from Italy.
- Let your child dress up and use props. They will use their imagination and experiences to act out plays and games.
- Children love to play with puppets. Have a go at making your own simple puppets.

5. Physical Development. (PD)

This area of learning is about children developing control and coordination of their bodies.

Through outside play they will learn how to handle equipment such as bikes, prams, scooters, climbing frames and balls. They will develop skills such as pushing, pulling, balancing, climbing and jumping.

Through painting and drawing, construction, and small world toys, they will develop small manipulative skills.

What activities will the experience in settings to develop physical development?

- Provide large apparatus for the children to develop skills like climbing, jumping and balancing.
- Children will be aware of safety issues and be encouraged to share, take turns and wait.

- Small equipment to develop turning, twisting, pushing and balancing. Many of these will be experienced through play situations. Farms, Play Mobile, cars and dolls houses.
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6. Creative Development. (CD)

This area of learning is all about developing ways of expressing themselves through colour, texture, drawing, sounds, movement and stories.

To develop their senses of:

Smell

Touch

Hearing

To respond to a variety of materials, tools and instruments.

Encourage the children to have lively imaginations which they can use in role play situations and through their paintings and drawings.

What activities will they experience in settings to develop creative skills?

- Children will be encouraged to express themselves through drawings, painting, collage and colour.
- Provide a wide variety of tools, materials for children to work with.
- Encourage the children to look closely at objects. Use vocabulary to describe objects and create them on paper.
- Learn many different songs, rhymes, poems and use actions to express them.
- Use music and develop the language of loud, quiet, fast, slow and listening skills.
- Children may use a variety of percussion instruments to investigate how they can be played, blown, hit or plucked.
- Move and respond to music through mime and dance.

How can I help my child at home?

- Provide experience for the children to play with paint, crayons, and boxes for modelling.
- To listen to different types of music.
- Try to give your child the experience of sand, play dough and water.
- Let your child dress up and use props. They will use their imagination and experiences to act out plays and games.
- Children love to play with puppets. Have a go at making your own simple puppets.