

# The Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years curriculum encompasses 7 areas which are described as either Prime, or Specific Areas of Learning. Children's development is particularly key in the Prime Areas. Learning in Literacy is linked with these other areas of learning to give a holistic picture of children's development:

## Prime Areas of Learning

- **Communication and language**

**Listening and attention:** children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

**Understanding:** children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

**Speaking:** children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

## Specific Areas of Learning

- **Literacy**

**Reading:** children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

**Writing:** children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.



Tracing letter shapes in sand.



Working as a team to develop speaking and listening skills when role playing.

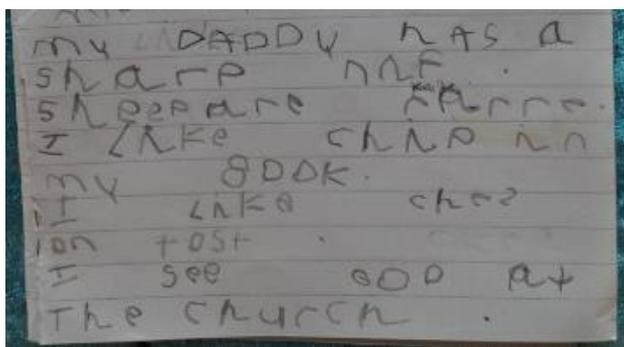


Using a keyboard to find letters in a name.

Taking part in a phonics hunt.



Independent sentence writing.



Reading a book with a friend.

