



Little Fishes Pre-school Curriculum

Little Fishes Pre-school follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (see below). We also have Forest school sessions for school leavers in their last term; visits from people (e.g. dentist), and to places, that support and enhance children's experiences (e.g. fire station). We operate a free-flow system – activity stations are set up and children are free to visit them when they choose to. We try and encourage children to be involved in as many different activities as possible, but we follow their lead. We encourage parents to come in to help, play and/or share different cultures with us.

Our main aim is for your child to feel happy and settled with us and we do this on an individual needs basis.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

The EYFS is how the government and Early Years professionals describe the period of a child's development from 0 – 5 years of age.

It is the preparation for future learning and successes, and 'school readiness'.

It comprises a legal document – The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

The EYFS document sets out:

Legal welfare requirements, such as keeping children safe and promoting welfare;

The 7 areas of learning and development;

Methods of assessments to report your child's progress through EYFS;

Expected levels of development by children by the end of the Reception year.

The four Principles that the EYFS promotes are as follows:

- **Unique Child** - Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- **Positive Relationships** – Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- **Enabling Environments and Relationships** - Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers
- **Learning and Development** - Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

There are 7 Areas of learning and development, divided into three prime areas and four specific areas:

Prime Areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Each Area of Learning is divided into two or three focused areas.

Each area is subdivided into targets that the average child will meet in the following age bands, with an Early Learning Goal at the end:

0 – 11 months	8 – 20 months
16 – 26 months	22 – 36 months
30 – 50 months	40 – 60 months+

How to keep informed on your child's progress at Little Fishes:

- Take the time to have informal conversations with your child's keyworker
- View your child's portfolio – this is available to view at all times in the setting
- Formal keyworker meetings to share progress, next learning steps and how you can support learning at home
- Two Year Progress Check and Learning and Development summaries

How can you support your child's development at home?

- Have a close relationship with your child's keyworker
- Talk to your child at every opportunity, ask questions, ask their opinion and listen to what they say
- Share stories, talking about what they see and hear in the stories – ask them what they think might happen
- Talk about numbers, colours, letters you see when out and about
- Sing and share nursery rhymes
- Encourage mark-making, cutting, exploring
- Play turn-taking games
- Planting and growing
- Let them help you with simple tasks when you cook, sort out washing, shop, tidy or clean up, etc.
- Explore the outdoors in different seasons
- Do jigsaw puzzles and 'put things together' (e.g. build towers with Lego bricks or similar)
- Share; encourage them to use their voice when they want something, or to express how they feel, and use 'please' and 'thank you'

After more information?

- Please ask at pre-school
- www.foundationyears.org.uk

Things to remember:

- Please try not to compare your child's progress with others of the same age – all children are individuals and develop when they are ready and these stages of development are 'average child' expectations.
- Children will follow their own interests – as practitioners we would be wrong to 'make' them do things they do not want to – we will encourage, but not force.
- We can only assess a child's developmental age by evidence we gather at preschool by observing them! We encourage you as parents to add to our observations by

jotting down and dating anything you see your child do independently at home – it helps to add to our overall picture of your child’s developmental stage.

- **Do not underestimate the importance of play!**
- If you are worried about anything, no matter how small you think it may be, PLEASE talk to your keyworker or another practitioner. We are here to support and help you and your child.