

The Early Years curriculum is broken down into 7 areas of learning; 3 of which are prime areas and the other 4 specific areas. In Nursery we focus on the 3 prime areas initially and when children are secure we then move onto the 4 specific areas. Reception children have a greater focus on the specific areas, although the prime areas continue to run alongside these.

#### **Prime Area: Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This area of learning is all about the settling in of the children and the introduction to a new environment, new routines and of course new rules. We will be working on forming relationships with both staff and peers. Also we will be encouraging the children to talk about themselves, their families and things that are of importance to them. All of these activities will take place through play and small group circle times.

#### **Prime Area: Communication and Language Development**

Communication and Language is all about speaking, listening and understanding. We will be spending lots of time encouraging the children to speak in both small and larger groups, including turn taking in conversation. Through story and song times we will encourage children to listen carefully as well as develop their attention and concentration. Within the unit we use both verbal and non-verbal communication and will be introducing the children to Makaton- a form of sign language.

#### **Prime Area: Physical Development**

Physical development covers both fine and gross motor skills as well as children's health and self-care. This half term we will be developing children's fine motor skills through activities including using tweezers, peg boards, threading, cutting, writing, finger gym and dough disco. The children will have opportunities to use bikes, scooters and variety of climbing equipment to develop their gross motor skills. As part of the children's health and self-care development, the children will be supported in developing their independence in relation to their dressing and toileting, such as zipping up their own coats.

#### **Specific Area: Literacy**

Literacy is broken down into reading and writing. A lot of our early reading and writing development happens through carefully planned play activities such as: mark making using paint brushes and water, letter hunts and writing in shaving foam and other media as well as much more. Reading is an integral part of the Early Years curriculum and throughout this term we will be exploring a range of books in both small and larger groups. The children will begin their daily phonics sessions where they will be introduced to individual letter sounds and receive their sound books to consolidate their learning at home.

#### **Specific Area: Mathematics**

Mathematical activities will include counting, number rhymes, number hunts and reading and recognising numbers. The children will be introduced to 2D shapes as well as mathematical vocabulary to describe size, positions and patterns. We teach mathematics through a range of practical and fun activities both indoors and outdoors.

#### **Specific Area: Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

Throughout this half term, we will be exploring the signs of Autumn using our senses, including going on an Autumn walk. Children will have the opportunity to explore a range of ICT as we introduce them to our iPads as well as teaching them how to safely use the computers. The children will be taught the importance of E-safety through a series of child friendly lessons.

#### **Specific Area: Expressive Art and Design**

Children will have daily opportunities to play with playdough, paint and to make their own models (any recycling will be greatly appreciated). Role-play opportunities are available through specific role-play areas such as the Home Corner and Percy the Park Keeper's hut out in green zone as well as in the use of the stage and mud kitchen. These areas build upon the children's speaking skills and confidence within Early Years. We will also be enjoying plenty of singing opportunities.