

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

### Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception



Throughout the Early Years we focus on developing children's basic skills and laying down the foundations for their future education, as well as providing children with as many learning opportunities as possible that are appropriate for their age and stage of development, in a caring, safe and stimulating environment.

Play is the foundation for children's learning throughout their lives. All areas of the Early Years Curriculum can be covered through play which means what they learn and experience is both meaningful and purposeful. We are aware that all children are individuals and develop at different rates according to their maturity and academic ability. We cater for children's individual needs within each area of the curriculum, building on from their existing understanding and experiences. As the children develop and mature they are introduced to more structured and formal opportunities, preparing them for the next stage of their education at the Manor.

## **The Areas of Learning and Development**

Throughout the Early Years at the Manor we offer a broad and balanced curriculum. There are seven areas of learning and development. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

**Communication and Language**

**Physical Development**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

There are also four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

**Literacy**

**Mathematics**

**Understanding the World**

**Expressive Arts and Design**

These areas of learning and development cannot be delivered in isolation. Each area is equally important and delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult led and child-initiated activities both inside and outside.

## Pre-Nursery



In Pre Nursery the emphasis is on settling in and being away from home. We concentrate on building up confidence and developing social skills through a range of free play and exploratory experiences.

## Nursery



In Nursery children continue to learn through play and discovery and receive a firm foundation in social, creative, linguistic, mathematical and physical development, and build up a knowledge and interest in the world around them. We recognise that they learn most effectively through a range of self-initiated experiences as well as activities planned by adults.

## Reception



In Reception, children are stimulated through a topic-based approach that includes all areas of the curriculum. There are daily opportunities for children to explore and investigate in play situations alongside more formal teaching in small groups.

## The Three Prime Areas:

### 1. Communication and Language



Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. Opportunities include purposeful play situations, small discussion groups, role play, show and tell, circle time, concert times, poetry festivals as well as sharing assemblies.

## 2. Physical Development



Children have many opportunities to play safely both indoors and outdoors, using a range of small and large equipment such as balls and scooters as well as the challenges of climbing equipment around the school. Children's fine motor skills are developed through a range of activities. All children have the opportunity of a specialist PE session each week and in Reception the children have two double PE lessons as well as the opportunity to take part in lunchtime clubs such as Tag Rugby, Tennis and Ballet. There is certainly plenty of opportunity for physical activity!

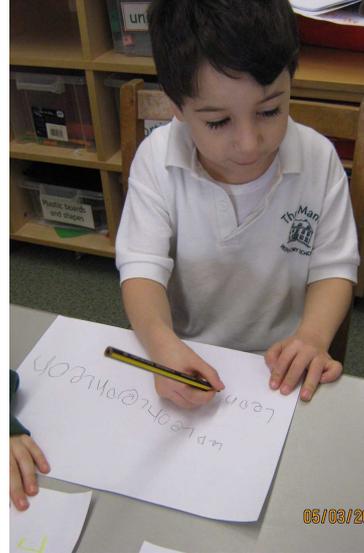
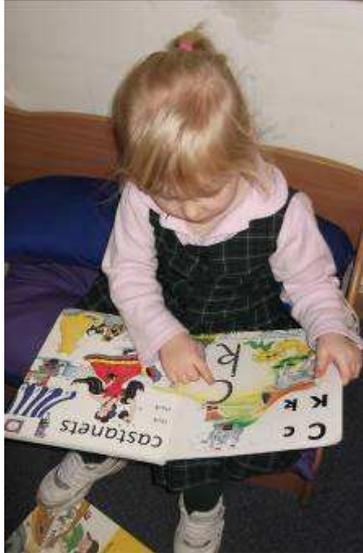
## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



Each child is valued as an individual and given support through a caring and nurturing environment so that they learn to trust others, co-operate and develop their self confidence. They are also encouraged to become independent and take responsibility for their belongings. The children learn about appropriate behaviour and how to respect and help one another. As the children progress through the Early Years they start to attend and take part in school assemblies.

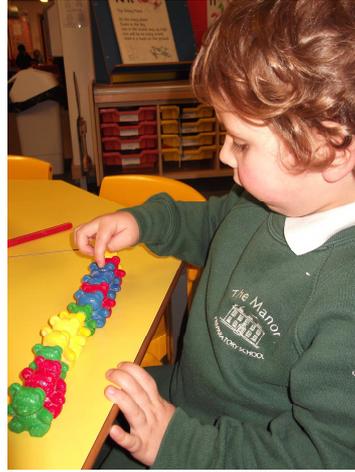
## The Four Specific Areas:

### 1. Literacy



Literacy is approached through stimulating activities, where stories become alive and sounds are explored through inspiring activities. The purpose of writing is encouraged through role play and routines around the classroom. By the time children start Reception, many of the children will recognise some sounds and have a good understanding and love of books through stories they have shared at home and in school. In Reception, the children continue to develop reading skills through stories and rhymes and fully enjoy the synthetic phonics programme. You are encouraged to reinforce this at home. All children in the Early Years have the opportunity to have a story read by the school librarian each week.

## 2. Mathematics



Throughout the Early Years, children will experience a variety of practical activities which will teach them to count, sort, copy and continue patterns, measure and compare and understand the concept of number. Mathematical skills are practised both indoors and outside and are incorporated into routines and role play areas. In Reception, the children will be introduced to basic calculations, problem- solving activities as well as exploring different ways of recording their mathematical ideas.

### 3. Understanding of the World



Children are given opportunities to learn about the world around them through investigation and observation. Children explore their surroundings both inside and outside, look at objects and artifacts and are encouraged to ask questions to develop their understanding. This area is often covered through a topic based approach and lays the foundations for Science, History, Geography and technology. Children develop an understanding of ICT through toys and equipment. In Nursery, the children start to enjoy exploring programmes on the Interactive Whiteboard and develop mouse control. In Reception, the children develop their computer skills further through a variety of programmes both in the classroom and in the Pre Prep ICT suite.

#### 4. Expressive Arts and Design



Creativity is fundamental to successful learning. The aspects of this area of learning include art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play. Being creative enables children to make connections between one area of learning and another. Children are encouraged to explore a range of techniques with painting, printing, modeling, collage and drawing being just some of the activities available. Children's work is valued through colourful displays in each classroom when children can be encouraged to leave their work in school! All children have a specialist music session at least once a week and parents get their tissues ready for the Nativity Plays at Christmas.

## Forest School

Forest School sessions are practical, they emphasise the development of self-esteem, communication and social skills, personal responsibility and citizenship. Forest School sessions link to all areas of learning and development. Forest School builds on the natural instinct to learn that everyone is born with. It offers opportunities to make choices, initiates learning, taking risks and encourages positive attitudes and behaviour. It also encourages curiosity and independence as well as developing self-esteem and confidence. Forest School is child-led and allows children to make choices and take supervised risks. It allows every child to have a voice. Operating with a high adult/child ratio it enables children to undertake new experiences and challenges.



For further information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework please follow this link. However, please bear in mind that there may be operational differences - thank you. [http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/EYFS\\_Parents\\_Guide.doc](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/EYFS_Parents_Guide.doc)