

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.' (EYFS)

At Leigh Beck we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children, giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We ensure children's interests are fostered and developed alongside pre-planned adult led activities that meet all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS).

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The four principles of the EYFS shape our planning and practice within The Foundation Stage. These are:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be **strong and independent through positive 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/or carers
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates**

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum supported by the principles of good practise set out in the Bold Beginnings document and... based on our observations of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve a Good Level of Development. The curriculum provided is rich and meaningful, with first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and learn to become independent learners. We want our children to develop positive attitudes towards learning gaining confidence for their future.

Our termly and weekly curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach that links all of the aspects within the 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum, which include:

The prime areas of learning:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

The specific areas of learning:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Characteristics of effective learning:

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

Communication and Language

Children learn in a language rich environment to help them develop their spoken language and understanding. We teach the children to develop their vocabulary, ask and answer questions confidently and with clarity and use language to extend their own knowledge and understanding.

Literacy

Children have a daily phonics lesson and are taught in ability sets for Read, Write Inc. Children take part in reading and writing opportunities across the week with a strong focus on learning and building upon basic skills e.g. name writing.

Maths

Children have a daily mathematics carpet session to develop early numbers skills including counting forwards and backwards to 20 and recognition of numbers 0-100. They learn to add and subtract practically, recognise shapes and use a wide range of mathematical language. They are encouraged to solve practical problems involving every day and real life maths. These skills are then able to be put into practise through activities available for the children to access during their own learning time.

Physical Development

Children are guided to be independent at school in their self-care of feeding, keeping themselves clean, toileting and dressing. They have lots of outdoor play opportunities to climb, run, keep fit and be active. They are encouraged to take part in activities to develop their core muscles, fine motor skills and hand eye co-ordination. Children take part in a discrete P.E. session based upon the Real P.E. scheme.

Understanding the World

Reception children are supported to make better sense of the world around them and to begin to understand their role in the larger world. They have access to a wide range of technology to explore, use and program. Children are encouraged to investigate, observe and discover in their play both indoors and outdoors.

Expressive Arts and Design

Painting, drawing, modelling, collage and printing are just some of the creative activities that are available for children daily. Children have opportunities to role play, dress up, make music and perform.

All of our teaching takes place through a range of themes which are taken from the children's interests. These are gathered at our Class Planning Meeting at the start of the year and added to as the year progresses and interests evolve. This also allows us to deal with any issues which may arise during the year.

Our topics vary in length determined by the interest and engagement of the children.

Observation and Assessment

As part of our daily practice we observe and assess children's development and learning to inform our future plans. We record our observations in a variety of ways. Everyone is encouraged to contribute and discussions take place. Significant observations of children's achievements are collated in their own personal learning journey, which are shared with parents. Parents are invited to look at their child's learning journey throughout the year and during parents evening. Within the final term of Reception, we provide the parent's with a report based on their child's development against each of the 17 Early Learning Goals within the 7 aspects of the EYFS.

Reading and Homework

Children are expected to do one piece of homework each week. This task will support the learning that has taken place that week at school.