



# Edmondsley Primary School

## Teaching and learning in our Early Years Foundation Stage



This booklet aims to give a brief overview of life in the Early Years. Although it cannot cover everything we do, we hope it captures the essence of our action packed days.

## Early Years Foundation Stage Principles

• **A Unique Child** - Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

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• **Positive Relationships**—Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

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• **Enabling Environments** - The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

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**Effective Learning and Development** - Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

## Areas of Learning and Development

### The Prime Areas

- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

### The Specific Areas

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

### Learning through Play

We provide well planned experiences based on children's spontaneous play, both indoors and outdoors.

The planning is child-initiated and aims to incorporate their ideas and interests.

The planned activities cover all 'Area of Learning and Development in the EYFS'

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Developing the self-confidence and self-esteem of all children in our care is a priority for those working at Edmondsley Nursery and Primary School. We support the children's growing awareness of others, enabling them to establish respectful relationships with both adults and children.



By providing the children with a stimulating environment and exciting and challenging learning opportunities we aim to foster skills and positive dispositions to learning. These skills provide the building blocks for positive future learning throughout school. We celebrate successes and give every child the opportunity to shine.

## Communication and Language



Author Wes Magee reads some of his poems to the children

Speaking and listening is a key area of importance in the Early Years. Children are encouraged to talk freely and are given the opportunity to speak in whole class situations through 'Circle Time' and 'Show & Tell' sessions.

Children are encouraged to listen attentively and respond to what they hear. They are taught to follow instructions developing a deep understanding of the importance of language.



## Literacy

Children begin phonological awareness activities in nursery with the introduction of the 'letters and sounds'. Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonics.

All children in nursery have the opportunity to take a library book home. Reading schemes are used throughout the school and are introduced in nursery when appropriate, but mainly Reception.



Writing skills are encouraged through physical play, cross lateral activities, mark making and eventually using phonic knowledge to write words.

## Mathematics

Children are given opportunities to work with patterns, numbers, counting, sorting, matching, shape, space and measure. By making links and recognizing relationships they can use their new found skills to solve problems, to question and to make connections across other areas of the curriculum.



Baking activities incorporate counting, weighing, measuring and estimating

## Understanding the World

All children are offered opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and understanding to help them make sense of our big world. Children are encouraged to be curious, to explore and to investigate. We have a fabulous garden where children learn to plant, care for and cultivate plants.



We develop computer skills in all areas of the foundation stage, with the use of computers, Ipads, Interactive whiteboards, photographic, recording and animation equipment. Nursery and Reception class updates their class blogs regularly to let you know exactly what we've been doing. [edmondsley.weebly.com](http://edmondsley.weebly.com). We welcome your comments.

## Physical Development

Children love moving and at Edmondsley they are offered a wide range of activities which help them to improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement.



All children participate in movement lessons. These sessions are a great way to develop their gross motor skills.



Fine motor skills are developed through a range of play activities including construction, play dough and pencil control activities.



## Expressive Arts and Design

Creativity filters through everything we do allowing children to initiate their own learning and make choices and decisions. Children are encouraged to explore their ideas, thoughts and feelings through art, music, drama, dance and imaginative role-play.

We sing every day as well as performing concerts—a fabulous confidence builder for the children.

Both nursery and reception classrooms have areas dedicated to promoting drama and role play. Children are provided with many and varied opportunities for both 2-D and 3-D art work.



At the end of Reception we will complete the **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile** each child will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals. We will indicate whether the children are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are exceeding expected levels, or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging').

When you share information about your child, a clearer picture unfolds and together we can help them move on to the next stages of their learning. Please feel welcome to join us in watching out for and noting new things.