



My Learning Journal

Information for Parents and Carers



Your child's Learning Journal celebrates his or her experiences throughout their year in Reception. Over time, it will tell a story about your child - their learning, their friends, the experiences they enjoy and the activities they complete.

Staff observe each child at play because it helps us to understand and support their individual wellbeing and development. We appreciate the children as unique people with special skills, interests and ideas. The more we understand about your child, the better we can support them to progress.

At this age, so much happens so quickly and we would love to hear about events, activities or achievements which can be added to your child's Learning Journal. When children are ready, they can also choose to put things that are important to them in their Learning Journal and together we can create a wonderful record of your child's Reception year.

The Learning Journal will include:

Photographs - These capture moments and sequences of your child's experiences, their interests and explorations. You can add some of your own from home. Sometimes, we will record exactly what your child says about the photographs, so we know your child's point of view. This is also an accurate record of language development.

Your Child's Creations - These could be photos of models your child has built, photos of their role-play activities, marks they have made or artwork they have created. Sometimes we will add some additional notes to explain what your child did or said.

Observations - As your child completes tasks and activities, staff will observe what your child says and does. We will sometimes make notes of our observations to record information about significant moments in your child's learning and development.

Throughout your child's Learning Journal, you may see references to areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which supports children to the end of their Reception year at school. You can find the Early Learning Goals on the other side of this sheet.

Alongside these Areas of Learning and Development, there are also the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning which describe **how** your child learns.

The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning are:

Playing and Exploring - Finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning - Being involved and concentrating, keep trying, enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and Thinking Critically - Having their own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things

Staff will refer to these areas and the characteristics when planning and preparing activities and also when observing.

We hope you enjoy looking through your child's Learning Journal.

Early Learning Goals

Communication and Language	
Listening, Attention and Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.
Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate. Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
Self-Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly. Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate. Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
Managing Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly. Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.
Building Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others. Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers. Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.

Understanding the World	
Past and Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society. Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.
People, Culture and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps. Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.
The Natural World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Physical Development	
Gross Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others. Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing. Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.
Fine Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery. Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Literacy	
Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary. Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories. Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.
Word Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs. Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending. Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters. Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Expressive Arts and Design	
Creating with Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. Share their creations, explaining the process they have used. Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.
Being Imaginative and Expressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher. Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs. Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music.

Mathematics	
Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5. Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.
Numerical Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system. Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity. Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.