



2021 EYFS Skills Progression Map



Areas of Development	Aspects	Nursery	Reception	Reception ELGs – what children should be able to do by the end of Reception
Communication and Language - Prime Area	Listening, Attention and Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens. Pay attention to more than one thing at a time, which can be difficult. Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as: "Get your coat and wait at the door". Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important. Learn new vocabulary. Engage in storytimes. Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding. Engage in non-fiction books. Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary. 	<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"> Use a wider range of vocabulary. Sing a large repertoire of songs. Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story. Develop their communication but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'. Develop their pronunciation but may have problems saying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some sounds: r, j, th, ch, and sh multi-syllabic words such as 'pterodactyl', 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus'. Use longer sentences of four to six words. Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions. Start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns. Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use new vocabulary through the day. Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them. Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives. Describe events in some detail. Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen. Develop social phrases. Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words. Use new vocabulary in different contexts. Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound. Learn rhymes, poems and songs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in small group, class and 1-to-1 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.
Physical Development – Prime Area	Fine Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors. Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. Show a preference for a dominant hand. Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons. Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient. 	<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. Show accuracy and care when drawing.
	Gross Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills. Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet. Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues. Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks. Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and refine the fundamental movement skills they have already acquired: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rolling crawling walking jumping running hopping skipping climbing Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace. 	<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.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasingly be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm. Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width. Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel. Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility needed to engage successfully with future physical education sessions and other physical disciplines including dance, gymnastics, sport and swimming. Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor. Combine different movements with ease and fluency. Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group. Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility. Further develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming. Develop confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities that involve a ball. Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular physical activity healthy eating toothbrushing sensible amounts of 'screen time' having a good sleep routine being a safe pedestrian Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lining up and queuing mealtimes 	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development - Prime Area	Self-Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game, and suggesting other ideas. Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important. Remember rules without needing an adult to remind them. Develop appropriate ways of being assertive. Talk with others to solve conflicts. Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See themselves as a valuable individual. Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others. Show resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge. Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and 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 an activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
	Managing self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them. Use large and small motor skills to do things independently, for example manage buttons and zips, and pour drinks. Show an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress. Start eating independently and learning how to use a knife and fork. Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips. Be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g., brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands thoroughly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage their own needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal hygiene 	<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 and 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.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing. 		
	Building Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community. • Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting. • Show more confidence in new social situations. • Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas. • Understand gradually how others might be feeling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about the perspectives of others. • Build constructive and respectful 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 sensitivities.
Literacy – Specific Area	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-read these books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment. • Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense. 	<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"> • Understand the five key concepts about print: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ print has meaning ○ print can have different purposes ○ we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom ○ the names of the different parts of a book ○ page sequencing • Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ spot and suggest rhymes ○ count or clap syllables in a word ○ recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother • Write some letters accurately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them. • Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter– sound correspondences. • Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them. • Read a few common exception words matched to the school’s phonic programme. • Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter–sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words. 	<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 soundblending. • Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including common exception words.
	Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing ‘m’ for mummy. • Write some or all of their name. • Write some letters accurately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form lower-case and capital letters correctly. • Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s. • Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop. 	<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.
Mathematics – Specific Area	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually (‘subitising’). • Recite numbers past 5. • Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5. • Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total (‘cardinal principle’). • Show ‘finger numbers’ up to 5. • Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count objects, actions and sounds. • Subitise. • Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. • Count beyond ten. • Compare numbers. • Understand the ‘one more than/one less than’ relationship between consecutive numbers. • Explore the composition of numbers to 10. 	<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 for numbers 0-5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5. Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0–5 and some to 10. 	
	Numerical Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'. Understand position through words alone – for example, "The bag is under the table," – with no pointing. Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'. Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight, and capacity. Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof, etc. Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle, etc. Talk about and identify the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs', etc. Extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf. Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern. Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select, rotate, and manipulate shapes to develop spatial reasoning skills. Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes <i>within</i> it, just as numbers can. Continue, copy and create repeating patterns. Compare length, weight, and capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the number 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.
Understanding The World – Specific Area	Past and Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment on images of familiar situations in the past. Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past. 	<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 vents encountered in books read in class and storytelling.
	People, Culture and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show interest in different occupations. Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people. Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about members of their immediate family and community. Name and describe people who are familiar to them. Understand that some places are special to members of their community. Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. 	<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"> Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. Explore how things work. Plant seeds and care for growing plants. Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw information from a simple map. Explore the natural world around them. Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live. Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them. 	<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.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. • Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. • Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. 		
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses, etc. • Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park. • Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make. • Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. • Join different materials and explore different textures. • Create closed shapes with continuous lines and begin to use these shapes to represent objects. • Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details. • Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises. • Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear, etc. • Explore colour and colour mixing. • Show different emotions in their drawings – happiness, sadness, fear, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore, use, and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. • Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. • Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources, and skills. 	<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.
	Performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar. • Listen with increased attention to sounds. • Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings. • Remember and sing entire songs. • Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match'). • Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs. • Create their own songs or improvise a song around one they know. • Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses. • Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses. • Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody. • Develop storylines in their pretend play. • Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with their 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 – move in time with music.