CARLTON COLVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Playing & Learning In Our Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage describes the stage of development from birth and continues up until the end of your child's reception year in school.

There are four guiding principles which sit at the heart of Early Years practice:

A Unique Child — every child is seen as a capable, resilient learner from birth, with their own strengths, needs and developmental pathway.

Relationships — children thrive when they feel safe, valued and supported by warm, responsive adults.

Enabling Environments — high-quality indoor and outdoor spaces, rich in learning opportunities, help children explore, play and develop.

Learning and Development — learning happens in different ways and at different rates, and the curriculum must be broad, ambitious and responsive.

At Carlton Colville, these four foundations are built upon to provide a rich and rewarding curriculum that helps every child to shine and prepare for an exciting future.

Curriculum

In Early Years, there are seven areas of learning, all of which are inter-connected:

The three **prime areas** are extremely important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving:

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

The four **specific areas** allow these to be strengthened and applied. Children are supported and encouraged to develop their skills in these areas:

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

The EYFS curriculum at Carlton Colville Primary School is carefully planned to take into consideration the interests of our children, with outdoor and active learning a core element of this, helping children to develop their curiosity, confidence, independence and enthusiasm.

Communication and Language

Talking, listening and sharing conversations are at the heart of how young children learn. The more high-quality interactions they have with adults and other children, the more their language grows - and this has a huge impact on their learning and confidence.

In a language-rich environment, adults help children develop strong communication skills by:

- **Talking about what children are doing** and showing genuine interest
- **Adding new vocabulary** as they echo back children's words
- **Reading regularly** — stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems
- **Giving children time to talk** and use new words in lots of different situations

In our Nursery we will:

- Learn and enjoy rhymes and songs.
- Share news at circle time.
- Play listening games.
- Develop skills in asking/answering questions.
- Try to speak in sentences and share our ideas and thoughts.
- Listen and respond to stories
- Enjoy a language-rich environment, hearing new words and understanding new concepts.

In our Reception classes we will:

- Learn and use new vocabulary.
- Ask questions and show curiosity.
- Connect our ideas and describe events in detail.
- Discuss and explain our ideas, thoughts and feelings.
- Retell stories to develop familiarity and understanding
- Learn rhymes, poems and songs.
- Build knowledge from non-fiction books
- Enjoy a language rich environment.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) helps children grow into confident, happy and healthy individuals. It supports their wellbeing, relationships and learning, providing important foundations for future success.

Children learn best through warm, caring relationships with the adults around them. These relationships help them understand their feelings, build confidence and develop the skills they need to get along with others.

We support children to:

- Develop confidence and a positive sense of self
- Set goals and keep trying when things are challenging
- Manage their emotions and take turns
- Build friendships, play cooperatively and solve simple disagreements
- Make healthy choices and become increasingly independent

Through play, conversation, positive role-modelling and gentle guidance, our children develop the social and emotional skills they need to thrive.

In Nursery, children learn to:

- Play alongside others, sharing ideas and solving small conflicts
- Take responsibility for caring for living things and the environment
- Follow simple rules, make choices and express their feelings
- Become more independent in activities and self-care
- Make healthy choices about food, drink, exercise and tooth brushing

In Reception, children learn to:

- Build positive and respectful relationships
- Express their feelings and understand the feelings of others
- Show resilience and perseverance when faced with challenges
- Manage their own personal needs and hygiene
- Understand how healthy habits support their wellbeing and development

Physical Development

Physical Development helps children grow strong, healthy and confident in their bodies. Being active through running, climbing, jumping, balancing and playing is an important part of children's learning and wellbeing.

Through a wide range of fun indoor and outdoor activities, children develop important physical skills, including:

- Strength and control to support movement and posture
- Balance and stability for confident and safe movement
- Coordination and agility for running, jumping, climbing and active play
- Spatial awareness to move safely around others

These larger movements, called gross motor skills, help children stay healthy and support their confidence, independence and social development.

Children also develop fine motor skills. These are smaller movements needed for tasks such as holding a pencil, using scissors, fastening buttons and zips, and using cutlery. Strong fine motor skills are essential for writing and everyday independence.

By providing children with plenty of opportunities to move, explore and practise new skills, we help them develop the physical confidence they need for school and beyond.

In Nursery, children:

- Enjoy a wide range of indoor and outdoor physical activities
- Develop gross and fine motor skills using a variety of tools and equipment
- Learn the correct pencil grip and develop control when mark-making
- Build independence through self-care tasks such as putting on coats and shoes

In Reception, children:

- Take part in PE lessons and active play to develop balance, coordination & control
- Use a range of resources and equipment to strengthen gross and fine motor skills
- Develop handwriting skills, including correct pencil grip and letter formation

Continue to grow in confidence and independence

Literacy

Literacy helps children develop a love of reading and writing from an early age. Through stories, rhymes, songs and meaningful conversations, children learn how language works and begin to connect sounds with letters.

Children develop early reading and writing skills through phonics, mark making and letter formation. As their confidence grows, they begin to recognise letters, read simple words and communicate their ideas through writing.

In Nursery, children:

- Enjoy a print-rich environment with stories, rhymes and songs
- Recognise familiar letters, including those in their name
- Explore mark making using a variety of materials
- Begin to form letters and develop pencil control
- Develop early phonics skills through rhyming, listening and sound games

In Reception, children:

- Follow the Little Wandle phonics programme
- Learn to read by blending sounds and spell by segmenting words
- Read simple sentences and common tricky words
- Write words, phrases and simple sentences with increasing confidence
- Develop correct letter formation, pencil grip and a love of reading through books, poems and songs

Mathematics

Mathematics helps children make sense of the world around them. Through play and practical experiences, children learn to count, sort, compare, recognise patterns and explore shapes and measures.

Everyday activities provide opportunities for children to develop their understanding of number, shape, space and quantity. As their confidence grows, they learn to solve problems, spot patterns and explain their thinking.

In Nursery, children:

- Explore numbers, shapes, size and quantity through play
- Use mathematical language in everyday activities
- Sort, match, count and compare objects
- Take part in practical problem-solving activities

In Reception, children:

- Develop mathematical skills through play, adult-led activities and daily maths sessions
- Build understanding of number, shape, pattern, measure and position
- Learn number bonds, doubles and the composition of numbers
- Develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills
- Explain their thinking and use mathematical language confidently

Children are encouraged to apply their maths skills in real-life contexts and to talk about their ideas using accurate mathematical vocabulary.

Understanding the World

Understanding the World helps children make sense of the people, places and environments around them. Through exploration, discussion and hands-on experiences, children develop curiosity about the world and their place within it.

Children learn about their families and communities, the natural world, different cultures and the past. They also begin to use technology and develop an understanding of how things work.

In Nursery, children:

- Explore and investigate using all of their senses
- Learn about themselves, their families and their local environment
- Develop an interest in nature and the world around them
- Enjoy hands-on experiences and opportunities to explore the school grounds and EYFS allotment

In Reception, children:

- Learn about the world through practical experiences and exploration
- Discover different countries, cultures and communities
- Learn about the past and present and changes in the natural world
- Meet visitors and take part in real-life learning experiences
- Use the EYFS allotment, wildlife area and school grounds to support their learning

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design supports children to develop their creativity, imagination and ability to express themselves in different ways. Through art, music, movement, dance, role play and construction, children are encouraged to explore ideas, make choices and share their creations with others.

Children are given opportunities to experiment with a wide range of materials, tools and media, helping them build confidence, curiosity and problem-solving skills. Creative experiences also support communication, language development and social interaction.

Our Nursery children:

- Explore painting, drawing, printing, cutting and sticking using a variety of materials and tools
- Enjoy singing songs, listening to music and playing musical instruments
- Develop imaginative play, supporting language and social skills
- Begin to express their ideas and feelings through creative activities

Our Reception children:

- Engage in singing, music making, dance and movement activities
- Create artwork independently and collaboratively, discussing their ideas and creations
- Develop storylines in imaginative play, building vocabulary and communication skills
- Extend skills in drawing, painting and design using a range of resources and techniques
- Explore and respond to music, art and performance with increasing confidence

Outside Learning

We provide regular opportunities for outdoor learning in our EYFS garden and throughout our extensive school grounds. Outdoor experiences are an important part of our curriculum, supporting children's physical development, wellbeing and curiosity about the world around them.

Children take part in seasonal wildlife activities across the school site and particularly enjoy visiting our dedicated Wildlife Area, where they can observe and explore nature first-hand. These experiences help them develop a growing respect for the environment and living things.

We also hold regular 'Nature Afternoons', where children engage in a range of outdoor learning activities such as exploring natural materials, investigating changes in the environment and taking part in creative and physical challenges outdoors.

Our Early Years allotment is cared for by the children, who enjoy planting, watering and watching fruits, vegetables and flowers grow over time. These hands-on experiences help children understand life cycles, responsibility and the importance of caring for nature, while also building teamwork, language and observational skills.

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect on the different ways children learn and encourage the characteristics of effective teaching and learning.

-Playing and Exploring- children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'.

-Active Learning- children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties. They enjoy their achievements.

-Creating and Thinking Critically- Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between their ideas and develop strategies for doing things.