



Layer Preschool

Our children are our curriculum.

When our children leave us, we would like them to have learnt to be resilient, independent, and curious. Our curriculum looks different every cohort, every day but our intent remains the same.

We believe our children are the curriculum. This means they guide us in how we support them to grow and blossom into the best versions of themselves. We do this by establishing close and meaningful relationships with each child, that enable us to extend their interests and learning opportunities in our daily provision.

To support our children in reaching their best possible outcomes we have a curriculum that is designed to complement the needs, abilities, and interests of all our children. By the time our children are ready to move onto the next part of their learning journey they will have developed fundamental skills which support our intent for each individual unique child.

Documents we work with are: **Statutory Early Years Framework 2023, Development Matters** and **Birth to Five Non statutory guidance**.

There are seven areas of learning and development within the Early Years curriculum.

Prime areas of learning

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language development
- Physical development

Specific areas of learning

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We celebrate a range of festivals and share special occasions with the children throughout the year.

Our Approach to Learning.

We offer a wide range of learning through play opportunities, meeting the needs and interests of the children on a daily basis. We follow a weekly theme with planned activities both child led and adult led, in various areas of learning but also operate 'in the moment' with our highly skilled staff arranging learning opportunities and play activities for the needs and interests of their key children.

Our environment covers all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, inside and outside. Our large space enables lots of activities to take place covering arts and crafts,

small world, construction, role play, literacy, physical movement, music and singing. Our garden space is used every day in all weathers.

Forest School

Stepping away from the constraints of the traditional four walls, Forest School allows children the time and space to initiate their own learning. It encourages the development of children's emotional and physical development through outdoor play, activities and exploration in a woodland environment. It allows children to develop their resilience, build their confidence, self-esteem, imagination and independence while experimenting by attempting 'real' hands-on activities. Forest School at Layer Preschool also allows for children to enjoy calm times and just be themselves while learning to respect themselves, each other and their environment.

Assessment

Most of the assessments we do at preschool are formative, so that it quickly helps us to make a difference to children's learning. However, we also need to have an overview of children's progress, so that we can take further actions where needed. We notice what children can and can't do. We are good at deciding when it will be helpful to step in and support, and when it's best to be encouraging but hang back. It is important that we are certain that children are secure in what they know and can do, before introducing them to something new

We complete:

- Termly summative assessment of where the child's development is in relation to typical milestones and the characteristics of effective learning.
- 2 Year Old Progress Checks.
- School transition reports.

Assessment helps with

- the early identification of children who need temporary extra help, and children who may have special educational needs.
- checking that individual children, and groups of children, are making progress and taking prompt action where this is not the case
- reporting formally and involving parents in the statutory 2-year-old progress check
- celebrate children's achievements with parents and share focus for learning
- discussions with other professionals who maybe involved with a child and family. For example, a health visitor or social care worker
- sharing information with the receiving schools in the summer so that children can continue their learning journey through the EYFS as seamlessly as possible.

Our Team

Our staff all receive training to refresh their skills and knowledge and to expand their knowledge into new areas of interest. They complete peer to peer observations and have termly supervisions from their manager to ensure they can gain all the support and training they need to fulfil their role.