

The Early Years Foundation Stage - Information for Parents. **(An explanation of how we organise your child's learning.)**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), from birth to five, is the framework for learning, development and care which supports each child to achieve their full potential. Our aim is for parents, teachers and teaching assistants to work together to give each child a safe secure and happy experience in the Early Years – a firm foundation from which to grow, enjoy and achieve. At Northburn, we are guided by four important principles which underpin everything we do:

- **A Unique Child** – every child is respected as a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive Relationships** – children learn to be strong and independent through the development of positive relationships with key adults.
- **Enabling Environments** – value all people, value learning, value partnerships between staff, parents and carers.
- **Learning and Development** – children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. Practitioners teach children by providing challenging playful opportunities across all areas of learning.

There are 3 characteristics which enable early learning and development and which support the child to become a confident, effective and motivated learner:

Playing and exploring – finding out, having a go, playing with what they know.

Active learning – being involved, persevering, achieving what they set out to do.

Creating and thinking critically – having ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things.

Learning and development is divided into seven areas within the EYFS. There are **3 Prime Areas** that work together and support development in all other areas of the curriculum. These are:

1. **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)** – Making relationships, Self-confidence and self-esteem, Managing feelings and behaviour.
2. **Communication and Language (CL)** – Listening and attention, Understanding, Speaking.
3. **Physical Development (PD)** – Moving and handling, Health and self-care.

There are **4 Specific Areas** which include the skills and knowledge to begin to read, write, count and calculate, begin to understand features of the world in which they live and develop creativity.

4. **Literacy (L)** – Developing the skills to begin to Read and Write.
5. **Mathematics (M)** – Numbers, Shape, Space and Measure.
6. **Understanding of the World (UW)** – People and Communities, The World, Technologies.
7. **Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)** – Exploring and using media and materials, Being imaginative.

Many of our activities are cross-curricular and address different area of the curriculum at the same time.

We will send you information throughout the year, which will inform you of your child's learning and how you can support your child at home.