

Nursery Curriculum Overview

Spring term 2022



In Nursery we review our plans daily, in order to respond to the children's ideas and interests, but this curriculum overview will describe broadly what the children will be learning this term.

Characteristics of effective learning

The children will be learning to:

- show curiosity about objects, events and people.
- use their senses to explore, observe and investigate
- have a go, concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties.
- act out experiences with other children.
- show satisfaction in meeting their own needs
- be as independent and responsible – when dressing or choosing resources.



Communication and Language

We read to children a lot in nursery, and this term we will be reading some well-known stories including Rosie's Walk, Little Red Hen and the Gingerbread Man. We will also continue to develop focused attention in small group work.

Children will:

- begin to understand 'how' and 'why' questions.
- use words such as 'who' and 'where' to find out about things.
- develop an understanding of preposition words – 'in front of', 'behind' 'under'.
- retell a simple past event

You can help at home by asking your child questions as you share stories e.g. I wonder **who** is behind the door? **Where** did the cat go? **How** did they get there, I wonder? Give your child plenty of time to answer, it can take children longer to process a question and think of an answer.

Ask them to tell you about something they enjoyed doing at the weekend, or at nursery.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be learning to:

- develop friendships and self-regulation through role-play, small world activities and physical games.
- recognise and say when they are unhappy with how someone is treating them.
- accept the needs of others when playing.
- undertake set challenges within an activity.
- have a go and not give up when things go wrong.
- dress independently – doing up own coat and shoes.
- use feeling words correctly e.g. happy, sad, angry
- say how their body feels after some exercise – can they describe the changes they notice?
- describe how they should care for our teeth – oral hygiene.



You can help at home by talking about how your child's actions make you feel. For example, you make me happy when you help to tidy your toys...

Physical Development

The children will:

- work on using different ways of moving, skilful running and avoiding obstacles
- develop core muscle strength through pulling and climbing activities.
- begin to use a comfortable grip to hold writing tools - a tripod grip is shown in the picture. Please make sure your child doesn't hold the pencil too near the top or bottom, as this makes it difficult to control the marks made.
- use equipment safely – scissors and large building blocks.



You can help by playing chasing games in the park. After running around, ask your child to feel their heartbeat. Can they feel it beating faster?

Literacy

The children will:

- engage in conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary
- know that print carries meaning and is read from left to right in English
- develop phonological awareness, listening for initial letter sounds and rhyming words
- learn how to form some pre-writing shapes / letters
- use writing in role play areas e.g. the Chinese restaurant / shop / cafe
- write some or all of their name
- draw or tell stories, having them written up by an adult.



You can help at home by talking about the pictures in books and looking for details in these pictures.

Discuss what the characters in the story are like – Good? Bad? Happy? Sad?

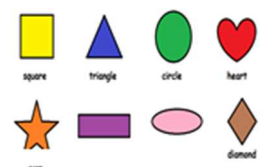
When reading at home, point out and say any new words you find in the story – also explain what the words mean.

If your child is ready, help them to write their name using lower-case letters, not all in capital letters.

Mathematics

The children will:

- say a number for each item in order as they count sets of items - 1 to 5 / 10
- know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle')
- begin to use their own way of representing numbers – with marks or fingers
- learn to show a number using their fingers - 'Show me 4' 'Show 5'
- use language relating to size and length– small / big/ large – short / long
- describe shapes they see around them – round, pointy, curved, straight



You can help at home by counting with your child and using fingers to show how many there are. Look at things in the house or park – find a pointed leaf; and look for curved lines in round shapes like a clock or plate.

The World

The children will:

- develop vocabulary by exploring, describing and talking about a wide range of processes and materials, natural and manufactured
- talk about memories of special times celebrated by their family
- use appropriate vocabulary to describe the environmental changes they see when playing outside.



You can help by taking your child to the park and looking for weather changes and the differences seen on the trees and bushes as we are moving towards Spring.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will:

- explore how sounds can be changed – faster, slower, louder, quieter.
- develop their creative ideas, by choosing own resources and techniques.
- add more details to their drawings and paintings
- begin to develop longer, more complex stories when using small world resources
- use a range of construction resources, for stacking upwards or creating enclosures.



At home, join in with them as they play to develop their imagination and storytelling skills. Give your child the chance to tell you their story as they play.

Other Information

- Continue to log on to your child's Tapestry online journal to see their learning progress at school.
- Regularly check the school website for information such as school newsletters, events etc. <https://www.colindale.barnet.sch.uk/news/>
- Read the WEDUC messages sent to you from the school as these contain important information. If you are not receiving WEDUC messages, please inform the school office asap.
- Remember, less TV/tablet time and more talking time to help increase your child's vocabulary.

Thank you for your support

**Jenni McDonagh, Leanna Brain, Charlotte Belacel - The Nursery Team
and Emma Hurn (DHT & Early Years Leader)**