

Areas of learning and development

What are they and why are they important?

There are seven different areas of learning and development. All of the areas of learning are important and interconnected. There are 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas. The prime areas are important for helping children to learn and form relationships; building a foundation for children to thrive. The specific areas ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm.



Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back and forth interactions lay the foundations for learning and cognitive development.

01

Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED)



PSED is crucial for children to lead happy and healthy lives and is fundamental to cognitive development. Forming attachments is important in shaping their social world.

02

Physical Development



Physical activity is vital in children's development. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness.

03

Literacy



It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Language comprehension starts from birth and develops through talking with children about the world around them and books. Children will then be taught to read and write.

04

Mathematics



Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. It is important for children to develop positive attitudes towards maths, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections and 'have a go'.

05

Understanding the World



This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. Children's personal experiences will increase their knowledge and sense of the world around them. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary is crucial in helping them understand the world.

06

Expressive Arts and Design



The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports with their imagination and creativity. It is important for children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.

07

All of this information is taken from the 'Early years Statutory Framework (for group and school based providers) Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five'.