

Reception Curriculum Overview – Skills, Knowledge & Vocabulary

Curriculum Area	Focus Area	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Communication and Language	Skills	Listen in groups	Follow two part instructions	Answer Questions	Recall events	Discuss ideas	Independent Listening
Communication and Language	Knowledge	Listening helps develop our learning.	Instructions guide actions.	Questions support understanding.	Stories follows sequences.	Discussions require turn taking.	Listening supports communication.
Communication and Language	Vocabulary	Listen, look, watch, wait, take turns, think, talk, answer, share, join in	first, then, next, listen, do, find, bring, put, give, after	answer, question, who, what, where, when, why, how, think, tell	remember, first, next, then, last, before, after, happened, yesterday, today	discussion, think, idea, because, agree, different, same, share, explain, listen, together	listen, focus, concentrate, notice, remember, follow, understand, careful, think, respond
PSED	Skills	Recognise emotions	Follow rules	Persevere	Use strategies	Show Confidence	Self-regulate
PSED	Knowledge	Understand that people feel different emotions.	Rules are there to keep us safe.	Challenges support of learning.	Strategies control feelings.	Confidence affects our learning.	Behaviour affects others.
PSED	Vocabulary	happy, sad, angry, worried, excited, scared, calm, proud, feelings, emotion	rule, kind, safe, listen, wait, share, turn, respect, choice, responsibility	try, practise, challenge, keep going, mistake, improve, resilient, problem, succeed, proud	Plan, choose, try, solve, problem, check, change, help, remember, improve	confident, brave, try, believe, independent, share, speak, proud, achieve, challenge	calm, stop, think, choose, wait, breathe, feelings, control, focus, ready

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Physical Development-Gross Motor	Skills	Explore movement	Balance and climb	Coordinate movement	Play games	Increasing stamina	Moving confidently
Physical Development-Gross Motor	Knowledge- Get Set 4 PE	Fundamentals- balancing, jumping, running	Ball skills- throwing, catching, rolling	Dance-moving with rhythm and control	Gymnastics-shapes, balancing, traveling	Games-sending and receiving objects	Athletics- running, jumping, teamwork
Physical Development-Gross Motor	Vocabulary	move, stop, go, fast, slow, jump, run, balance, stretch, travel	balance, climb, steady, careful, high, low, hold, step, reach, safe	move, control, balance, coordinate, throw, catch, kick, jump, aim, direction	team, partner, rules, take turns, pass, catch, score, defend, attack, cooperate	stamina, exercise, active, energy, breathe, rest, keep going, strong, practise, healthy	confident, control, balance, travel, space, direction, speed, steady, safely, explore
Physical Development-Fine Motor	Skills	Develop hand strength and control through a range of fine motor activities.	Use one-handed tools, including scissors, with increasing control.	Use a secure tripod grip to make controlled marks and form shapes.	Manipulate small objects with precision and increasing independence.	Show control and accuracy when using a range of fine motor tools.	Use fine motor skills confidently and independently across a range of activities.
Physical Development-Fine Motor	Knowledge	Understand the need for strong hands and fingers to help me hold and control tools.	Different tools are used in different ways and need careful handling.	Holding a pencil correctly helps me draw and write more accurately.	Small finger movements help me complete detailed tasks successfully.	Careful movements and practice help me improve my skills.	Fine motor skills help me write, create and look after myself every day.
Physical Development-Fine Motor	Vocabulary	hand, fingers, thumb, squeeze, pinch, grip, strong, control	hold, cut, snip, open, close, tool, careful, control	pencil, tripod, grip, draw, mark, line, shape, steady	pinch, thread, button, zip, twist, turn, precise, independent	accurate, control, practise, improve, careful, tool, steady, choose	confident, independent, fluent, precise, skill, control, ready

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Literacy-Reading	Skills	Recognise Phase 2 sounds	Blend CVC words	Read digraphs	Read sentences	Increase fluency	Decode unfamiliar words
Literacy-Reading	Knowledge-Monster Phonics	Phase 2 sounds s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l	Phase 2 continued sh ch th ng ai ee igh oa oo ar or	Phase 3 digraphs oo ow ee ur ai or oa	Phase 3 continued er igh air oi ear ure	Phase 3 CVC, CCVCC, CCVC blending and segmenting.	Phase 3 CVC, CCVCC, CCVC blending and segmenting.
Literacy-Reading	Vocabulary	phoneme, sound, letter, grapheme, say, read, match, recognise, blend, segment	Digraph, blend, sound, phoneme, read, word, first, middle, last, say, CVC	digraph, grapheme, phoneme, sound, letters, read, blend, recognise, together, two	sentence, word, read, blend, space, capital letter, full stop, finger, fluent, meaning	Fluency, smooth, accurate, expression, pace, blend, reread, confidence, sentence, meaning	decode, sound out, blend, phoneme, grapheme, digraph, segment, read, tricky word, retry
Literacy- Writing	Skills	Mark make	Correct letter formation	Write words	Write sentences	Write for purpose	Independent writing
Literacy- Writing	Knowledge-Pathways	Oral storytelling Labels & captions Focus Text: Supertato	Story sequencing Character description Focus Text: The Gingerbread Man	Retelling narratives Focus Text: Lets all creep through the crocodile creek	Simple sentence writing Using punctuation Focus Text: Naughty Bus	Independent story writing Focus Text: Clem and Crab	Writing for different purposes Focus Text: The Pirates are Coming
Literacy- Writing	Vocabulary	mark, draw, line, circle, zigzag, pattern, pencil, crayon, grip, control	Letter, formation, start, finish, direction, line, curve, pencil, tripod grip, control	write, word, sound, phoneme, grapheme, segment, spell, letter, finger space, check	sentence, word, capital letter, full stop, finger space, sound, write, check, sequence, meaning	purpose, message, list, label, card, letter, story, invitation, information, audience	independent, plan, think, write, sound out, segment, spell, sentence, check, improve

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Mathematics	Skills	Subitise & count to 5	Compare quantities	Explore number bonds	Add & subtract within 10	Recall number facts	Apply number knowledge
Mathematics	Knowledge- White Rose	Match, Sort & Compare Talk about Measure & Patterns It's Me 1,2,3	1,2,3,4,5 Shapes with 4 Sides	Alive in 5 Mass & Capacity Growing 6,7,8	Length, Height & Time Building 9 & 10 Explore 3D Shapes	To 20 and Beyond How Many Now?	Manipulate, Compose & Decompose Sharing & Grouping Visualise, Build & Map Make Connections
Mathematics	Vocabulary	subitise, count, number, how many, one more, one less, total, altogether, same, different	more, fewer, equal, same, different, compare, most, least, altogether, quantity	number bond, whole, part, altogether, make, add, combine, split, equals, total	add, subtract, plus, minus, altogether, total, take away, equals, more, fewer	Remember, number fact, number bond, double, one more, one less, equals to, total, pattern, recall	solve, problem, count, calculate, choose, explain, strategy, estimate, check, answer
Understanding the World	Skills	Talk about experiences	Recognise change	Compare past/present	Explore environments	Discuss differences	Explain ideas
Understanding the World	Knowledge	Events happen in the past	Things change over time	Past & present differ	Environments contain living things	People have different cultures	Exploration builds knowledge
Understanding the World	Vocabulary	remember, tell, happened, first, next, then, last, yesterday, today, because	change, grow, before, after, same, different, older, younger, life cycle, observe	past, present, before, now, then, old, new, change, compare, same	environment, explore, observe, natural, built, habitat, weather, map, local, discover	Same, different, compare, similar, unique, people, culture, family, respect, celebrate	explain, idea, think, because, describe, tell, answer, reason, share, understand

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Expressive Arts & Design	Skills	Explore materials and colours	Combine materials	Plan creations	Refine designs	Create with intent	Original creations
Expressive Arts & Design	Knowledge	Materials create artwork and add different colours to create a desired effect.	Materials combine	Designs can be planned	Work can improve	Choices affect outcomes	Creativity expresses ideas
Expressive Arts & Design	Vocabulary	material, colour, texture, smooth, rough, soft, hard, shiny, mix, compare, light, dark	combine, join, stick, attach, build, create, choose, design, fix, model	plan, design, idea, choose, create, make, build, improve, evaluate, purpose	refine, improve, change, adapt, evaluate, detail, practise, problem, solution, finish	purpose, intention, design, choose, create, represent, express, explain, detail, audience	original, unique, imagine, create, invent, idea, choice, explore, express, proud

This curriculum provides a planned progression of knowledge, skills and vocabulary across the Reception year. While the sequence reflects our intended curriculum, it remains responsive to the needs, interests and starting points of each cohort. As such, the content, pace and emphasis may be adapted annually to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children.

Workshops and Trips	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Event	Little City role play workshop		Fairy Tale Ball		Hertfordshire Zoo	Beach Day