



MONTGOMERY
INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Parents Guide to Early Years Foundation Stage



Welcome to Montgomery Infant School and Nursery.

When your child starts at Montgomery Infant and Nursery School you will continue to be your child's primary educator. When we work together we can provide the best learning experiences for your child.

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances." (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, 2012)

There are four guiding principles which shape our practice. These underpin the learning and development across the curriculum areas.

- **A unique child:** Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive relationships:** Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- **Enabling environments:** children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- **Learning and Development:** children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Planning the curriculum

"Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and must use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child."

"Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults." (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, 2012)

At Montgomery Infant School and Nursery, the inside and outside environments are carefully planned into areas which allow children to make choices, develop independence and re-visit experiences to reinforce their learning. We follow the children's interests, carefully planning challenging and enjoyable experiences for children. Staff also evaluate learning and the environment on a daily basis so that they can follow and support the individual needs of children.

All areas of learning are important and interconnected.

The three prime areas are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**

The four specific areas are-

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding The World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Communication and Language

This prime area of learning involves:

- giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment;
- to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves;
- to speak and listen in a range of situations.

We provide a wide range of first hand experiences which introduce children to new language; having lots of opportunities for high quality interactions with adults and with other children; and by sharing lots of stories and rhymes.

What you can do to help your child:

Speaking and listening are also the foundations of reading and writing.

- Everyday activities, such as preparing a meal, going shopping or walking to and from school give you a chance to talk with your child, explaining what you are doing.
- Books will have lots of new words for you to discuss with your child.
- Share a story every day, talk about the pictures and ask your child to tell you about the story. Reading the same favourite story may get boring for you, but helps your child's understanding of language.
- Listen to your child telling you about a favourite activity or the painting they bring home which to you just looks like a blob of colour. "Tell me about your picture" will often lead to a long explanation!
- Ask *why?* - it's your child's favourite word, so try asking it ~~back~~ It will encourage your child to think about what they are saying and to use reasoning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This prime area of learning involves:

- helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others;
- to form positive relationships and develop respect for others;
- to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings;
- to understand appropriate behaviour in groups;
- to have confidence in their own abilities.

What you can do to help your child:

- Play turn taking and sharing games with your child. These can be very difficult concepts for children to learn. Give lots of praise when your child shares to encourage this positive behaviour. This could be playing a board game, or taking turns kicking a ball to each other.
- Talk about and name feelings with your child e.g. "I'm feeling cross because ..." or "I'm feeling excited because we're going to the park". This will help children to understand their emotions and how to react.
- Talk about and explain rules and boundaries. Children need boundaries BUT need to understand the reason for them, e.g. we don't throw blocks because it might hurt someone, but it is OK to throw balls outside. Recognising you have similar boundaries at home will help children settle at school.
- Encourage your child to tidy away their toys. They will be expected to help at school.

Physical Development

This prime area of learning involves

- providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement.
- Children need to be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

We have the opportunity to use large and small equipment inside and outside every day. They are encouraged to take risks, learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, when climbing or using tools such as hammers and knives. There a range of healthy snacks provided every day and children have the opportunity to cook and prepare food. The school have held a healthy schools award for the past 14 years

What you can do to help your child:

- Allow your child to safely use tools such as scissors, or to help you chopping vegetables such as mushrooms and peppers.
- Talk about the food you eat at home, what is healthy and what is an occasional treat. Discuss other ways of staying healthy such as getting enough sleep or drinking plenty of water.
- Find different ways for your child to move when they are going
- Home. Can they hop or skip some of the way?
- Teach your child to use a knife, fork and spoon.

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

We provide a literacy rich environment, with plentiful opportunities for sharing fiction and non-fiction texts and mark-making activities both inside and outside, using traditional materials such as pens and pencils, but also brushes and water, or sticks in the sand. Childrens early marks are the basis of writing.

What you can do to help your child:

- Children who are read to and enjoy books from an early age are most likely to be successful readers in the future. Try and
 - share a book with your child as often as possible.
- Encourage your child to turn the pages, talk about the book and notice familiar letters, such as letters from their name. You could point to the words as you read.
- Give your child lots of opportunities for making marks using different materials, e.g. writing shopping lists together, making cards, or drawing with chalk outside.
- Notice print in the environment - shop names, food labels and car logos are often instantly recognisable to young children.

Sing simple familiar rhymes.

Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating including simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

At Montgomery Infant School and Nursery we provide opportunities for children to use mathematics through their play and real first hand experiences, as well

Mathematics is in every day experiences, from measuring ingredients when cooking, to working out how tall to build a tower of blocks to filling a plant pot with compost.



What you can do to help your child:

Sing counting songs and rhymes together.

Help your child use numbers for a real purpose- count pennies, stairs etc.

- Use as many opportunities as possible to count with your child -stairs, fruit, and buttons.
- Look for numbers around you e.g. house numbers, bus numbers, telephone numbers
- Cook with your child as this involves lots of counting and measuring.
- Calculate in everyday activities lying the table is always a good opportunity for working out how many more we need.
- Look for shapes around the home and as you walk around the local area. Talk about the number of edges and corners and use the proper names for shapes.



Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

At Montgomery Infant School and Nursery children explore changes in the garden, get involved in planting and hunting for minibeasts. They take part in „Forest School“ activities and are encouraged to notice changes in seasons and weather. They develop their understanding of other cultures as we celebrate different festivals throughout the year, and they use a wide range of technology from computers to programmable toys

What you can do to help your child:

Encourage questions -
What if...?
Why do you think...? How did you...?

- Answer the „why?“ questions as best as you can and if you don't know the answer try and find out together using the library or internet. Young children are naturally curious about how things work and why things happen.
- Notice changes in the natural environment, such as autumn leaves falling or the first signs of spring and talk about these with your child.
- Look at photos of family and friends - talk about how we change as we grow older.
- Plant with your child - cress is easy and quick to grow or try sprouting carrot tops on a saucer or planting sunflower seeds.

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, singing, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

At Montgomery Infant School and Nursery we sing and dance. We have a rich environment for encouraging creativity from using malleable materials such as dough and clay, paint mixing, collage, block play, role play and using a range of materials inside and outside. Children are encouraged to talk about their creations and these are valued - it is the process and not the product which is important in supporting childrens learning.

What you can do to help your child:

- Let your child listen to and sing songs and rhymes with you.
- Play different styles of music and encourage your child to move to the music. Dance with your child
- Value your child's creations .Talk to your child about what they have done and listen to their ideas.
- Use natural materials such as stones and twigs to create pictures outside.
- Explore different materials and tools, such as paint, glue, crayons, pencils, scissors and hole punches.
- Make play dough - staff can provide you with a simple recipe to use at home.

Further information

- At Montgomery Infant School and Nursery we have an open door policy. If you have a questions or concerns please talk to the class teacher.
- You will receive newsletters, have regular meetings and have access to Tapestry, our online learning journal to keep you updated about your childs learning. This will also allow you to share what your child have been learning at home. We will also be inviting you to a weekly play session to find out more about what we do in Early Years.

If you want to know even more about the EYFS there is a booklet produced by the Department for Education, which is also available on the school website.

