



Welcome to the Crew Room



THE WAY WE WORK

We offer a play based curriculum. The principles of practice of Little Pirates are from the National Guidance on Early Years Foundation Stage provision. We aim to meet the needs of our children and community through practice based on research about how children learn best.

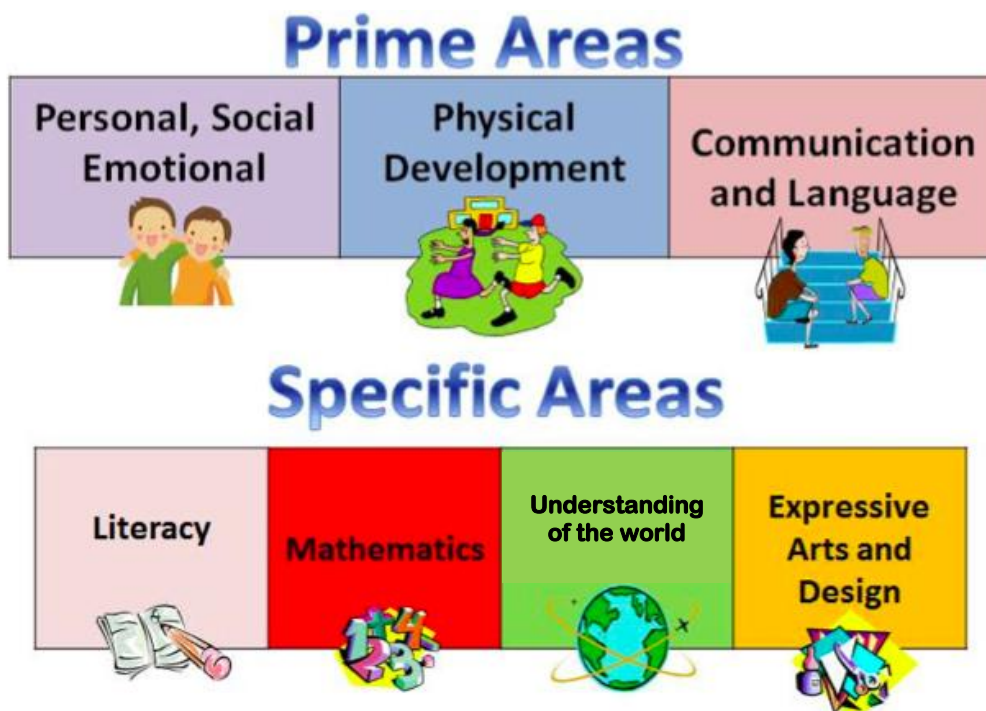
We believe children learn best through purposeful play

This means...


- Being respected as a **unique child**, an individual with their own needs and interests.
- Growing strong and independent through the support of **positive relationships** with and between their parents and staff.
- **Enabling environments**, indoors and outdoors, which are planned to support and extend children's learning and development.
- Understanding that children's **learning and development** happens in different ways and at different rates and that all areas of their learning are connected and important.
- We also aim to prepare them for school, by building confidence and encouraging independence.

EARLY YEARS AND FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

The curriculum for this age is divided into 7 areas:



We also track 3 *Characteristics of Learning*:

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNING	
<p>1. Playing and exploring - engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding out and exploring• Playing with what they know• Being willing to 'have a go' <p>2. Active learning - motivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being involved and concentrating• Keeping trying• Enjoying achieving what they set out to do <p>3. Creating and thinking critically - thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having their own ideas• Making links• Choosing ways to do things	



Children take a free flow snack break when they need it (we provide milk or water and fresh fruit and sometimes have a 'special snack') this helps our learning such as by tasting foods from different countries/cultures.

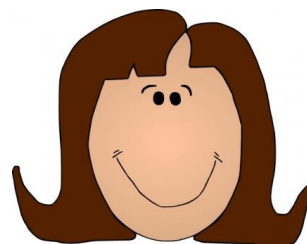
TAPESTRY



An easy to use online learning journal, Tapestry helps staff and parents to record, track and celebrate children's progress in the Early Years Education. Parents can add photos and comments they would like to share with the setting about their child's learning.

YOUR KEY PERSON

Every child has a 'key person', their special adult in the setting. Your first point of contact about your child in nursery will usually be his/her Key person. This person will have regular group sessions with their 'key children' and they will be the ones keeping your child's learning journal up to date.



WORKING TOGETHER

Please help your child get the most out of Crew Room...

- As we play outside everyday please make sure your child has the right clothing for the weather e.g. named sunhat, coat, wellies and footwear that fits securely around their feet. They need to wear clothes that can be played in, that can get messy and support toilet independence.
- Keep sick children at home as germs spread very quickly amongst the under 5s and nursery staff.
- Be a rich source of additional information, skills and ideas.

Share information about you child:

- Interests, abilities, worries, medical conditions, allergies, changes at home that might affect him/her.
- Changes to emergency contact names and numbers.
- Make time to look at and contribute to his/her learning story and attend consultation meetings.
- Family customs, religious celebrations, cultural festivals

Join in and enjoy nursery life

- Use the parents' notice boards and read newsletters.
- Come along to the different events, workshops and celebrations we offer through the year.

INDEPENDENCE AND LEARNING

In the Crew room we focus heavily on the children's independence this helps them to become thoughtful learners ready to start school. The children are encouraged to plan their own activities, talking about and evaluating their ideas. The children are expected to choose their own resources and manage the routines of the room, for example washing up after snack, using the toilets or putting outdoor clothes on. Please encourage your child to do these things at home. It also helps when children have clothing and shoes that they can manage themselves at school.

HELPING YOUR CHILD

We know that children go through great changes during their time in the Crew Room and every child is different and goes at their own pace. Here are a few things you can do to help them make the most of their time.

Help them to...

- Sit quietly for short periods of time to share stories or talk about places you have visited or things you have been doing.
- Change simple clothing by themselves.
- Look and listen when someone is speaking to them.
- Try to finish any activities that they have started.
- Ask for help or let someone know if they have a problem.
- Use good manners and have respect for others, take turns and share etc. and understand we do not hurt or be unkind to others.
- Leaving comforters at home



You can...

- Model how to say words and sentences correctly.
- Praise your child for every small step they make.
- Join in play and creative activities with your child showing them how to play, not telling them what to do.

Getting ready to write:

In our daily routine we incorporate Penpals. Penpal is a handwriting programme which offers practical approaches to support the development of handwriting. In the Crew room it is blended into their learning in such ways as exercises, dances, games and activities to develop the foundation skills. We also promote finger gym and getting ready to write activities to strengthen vital muscles and movements needed in handwriting. Our Read, Write Inc programme starts in January to begin to encourage recognition and understanding of letter sounds through games and group work.

A good start in the Crew Room involves building good partnerships and trusting relationships between children, parents and staff.



If you have any questions please come and talk to us or phone us and we will be happy to help you. There are never any questions that are too small when it comes to your children, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

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