

Curriculum

At Chapel Street Nursery School we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage which has 7 areas of development. There are three prime areas and four specific areas.

Our Three Prime areas are:

***Personal, Social and Emotional** - We support our children by helping them to become independent; we help them to learn how to dress themselves and understand what clothing they need for the garden.

We support their emotions by using signs for feelings and helping the children to express themselves using the signs.

All our activities are planned around the curriculum, as well as by using the children's next steps to help them progress further.

***Communication and Language** - Children will learn that reading is for pleasure and provides information. They will learn how to handle books carefully, reading from left to right holding the book correctly and also understanding the words and pictures.

Communication and language also involves giving the children new words to learn and to experience a rich language environment that will help to develop their skills in expressing themselves. This will also develop their confidence to speak and listen in all different situations. It helps children to learn new words and use them in their speech and also start to recognise their names and start to form clear recognisable letters.

At Chapel Street we use chatter bags and story boxes to help children develop their language especially those who may have English as a second language.

***Physical** - we encourage our children to all be fit and healthy. We have a variety of physical equipment both inside and outdoors to support this such as different sized climbing frames suitable to varied ages and abilities. We have bikes, soft play, balls and balancing equipment. We also have a variety of cds to encourage children to move to music and express themselves during dancing and ring games.

We use a variety of fine motor skill activities such as threading, rolling and poking the playdough, and use pens and pencils for mark making. All these activities help to develop those skills needed for writing when each child is developmentally ready.

The Four Specific areas are:

Literacy - This area covers reading and writing. We have a large selection of books in each classroom and also have an onsite library where we can find books about all different topics/ interests. When a child starts at Chapel Street they will be supplied with a library book bag where they can take a book home each week to read with their parents and exchange it when they have finished. We encourage our children to read their books at home with their parents by giving them praise each time they change their book and offering certificates when they have read a certain amount of books.

At Chapel street the children will develop their pre-writing skills by introducing them to letters and sounds. We also encourage them to mark-make with a variety of tools such as crayons, pens, pencils, paint, playdough, soil, sand and clay to do this.

Children need to acquire the skill in each of these areas before they are ready to hold a pencil correctly and have the control to form letters and numbers.

***Mathematics** - This area includes shape, space, measure and numbers. At Chapel Street we provide opportunities for our children to develop their maths skills by having numbers displayed around the nursery and in the garden. We encourage our children to use their maths vocabulary during focus activities and in daily conversations e.g. by counting objects, talking about the length and the height of objects as well as the shape, size and quantities.

In each classroom we have a different Maths activity available daily and there is an opportunity to use maths language in almost all activities we use.

We believe Maths development should be made fun so it gains the children's interest so we use a variety of counting songs where children can use their fingers to represent numbers and count their friends. We also use ring games in the garden. We model our own hands as counting hands and make matching games based on our children's interests.

In addition, we use a variety of media to demonstrate filling and pouring, which teaches our children about volume and quantity.

We have a variety of books that include Maths such as the hungry caterpillar where we encourage the children to help us count the fruits and talk about the size of the caterpillar.

Understanding the World - This area teaches our children about people and the communities, the world and technology.

We encourage our children to explore different occupations by having a wide range of role play activities where children can dress up as the members of the emergency services, builders, vets, shop keepers, dentists etc, and they can act out scenes based on first hand experiences or from what they know and have learnt.

When possible we try to get people who work for different occupations to come in and talk to our children about what their job role is.

Our children have the opportunity to experiment and investigate through the natural environment. We have magnets, natural objects, and mirrors to help support this.

We provide our children with the opportunity to take part in cooking activities and help prepare snack for their friends.

Some rooms in our nursery have an interactive smartboard where children are able to access this independently. The children will be able to play games/ listen to stories and draw on these interactive smartboards. This supports our children in how to use interactive equipment. We also have a selection of ICT toys, microphones, cameras and interactive post cards.

We help our children to learn about the environment such as the weather. We encourage our children and parents to explain where their families are from and have a map in each room on which we plot this information.

We enjoy taking part in different cultural celebrations to ensure all of our children feel included and valued.

Expressive Art and Design - This area encourages children to explore media and materials and we encourage our children to use their imagination.

At Chapel Street our children have the opportunity to use a variety of media and materials to create something that is unique to them. This can be a very satisfying experience for the children.

Children have the opportunity to use a wide range of media such as pens, pencils, crayons, chalk, glue, scissors, junk modelling, clay and playdough.

We encourage all children to listen to different sounds, and sing rhymes and songs together.

Each classroom has a chance to take part in Charlie Music Time where they can dance, sing and learn new songs. During this time they will be able to use a variety of musical instruments to explore the sounds they make.

Outdoor Play - We believe outdoor play is an important part in children's development.

Reasons why we believe it is so important are:

- They can explore the natural world
- To move freely in a variety of ways
- Young children learn by being physically active in the outdoor environment
- Some children do not have access to outdoor environment
- Some children will prefer playing outside and as a result will show greater level of involvement and motivation
- To help children develop their gross motor skills
- Encourages children to use new vocabulary that they may not use indoors
- Children need to be exposed to sunlight to help their body make vitamin D

At Chapel Street we have a mud kitchen where our children can explore being imaginative in the outdoor area and explore natural resources in their environment.

We also have a gravel area where children can dig, fill and empty buckets. We also have some weighing scales in there to encourage the children to weigh the objects and compare quantities.