

Early Years Foundation Stage

At Blackwell, we provide an engaging and exciting learning environment where children feel nurtured and supported to develop as unique individuals. Early Years children at Blackwell learn to be independent in day to day activities and learning, they are encouraged to think creatively and problem solve. Play based exploring and valuable experiences lead the way for a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.

All teaching and learning In Early Years is based around the government non-statutory document, Development Matters, and children work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals. Seven areas of learning and development shape the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), with all areas being equally important and inter-connected. Three **Prime Areas** of learning ensure that children have strong foundations for development and learning:

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

Children are supported in the further four **Specific Areas** of learning in which the Prime Areas are developed and strengthened:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Teachers work closely with the children to ascertain and follow their interests, and so adapt the curriculum and learning to their specific needs. Short teaching inputs, group work, and one-to-one reading help ensure that the children are challenged and that the pace of learning is maintained.

At Blackwell, we are passionate about children developing a love for learning and ensure that we provide opportunities for children to develop the skills and qualities needed to become successful learners. These skills are referred to in the EYFS as 'characteristics of effective teaching and learning' and they are embedded through our everyday practice.

- **Playing and exploring** – Children are encouraged to investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- **Active learning** – Children are supported to concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievements.
- **Creating and thinking critically** – Children have and develop their own ideas, making links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Please follow these helpful links to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage.

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>



Tapestry is an online learning journal that we use to share your child's learning journey whilst they are in Early Years. We add observations, photographs and videos of your child, giving you a window into their learning in school and ask that you also add your own comments, as well as your own observations, to share what your child has been doing at home with us!

When your child starts school in September, you will have the opportunity to sign up to Tapestry so you can access your child's online learning journal. You will need to provide the school with an email address in order to do this. Once you have done this and been registered by the school you can access this via this link: <https://tapestryjournal.com/>