

Early Year Foundation Stage - What will the children actually learn?

Key Threshold Concepts (Substantive Knowledge)

When constructing our curriculum, we considered key threshold concepts or “the big ideas” which shape the ways pupils think within each subject. These threshold concepts, also known as “substantive knowledge,” are explored in every year group which help pupils gradually increase their understanding of them. Over time this approach of revisiting concepts helps children to *know more and remember more*.

Prime area 1: Communication and Language

i) Communication conveys meaning

- 1.1 Phonology
- 1.2 Semantics
- 1.3 Syntax
- 1.4 Pragmatics

Prime area 2: Physical Development

i) Strength is fundamental for movement

- 1.1 Shoulder strength
- 1.2 Core strength
- 1.3 Hand strength
- 1.4 Leg strength

ii) Gross motor skills are fundamental for movement

- 1.1 Stability
- 1.2 Locomotion
- 1.3 Object control

iii) Fine motor skills refine movement

- 1.1 hand-eye coordination
- 1.2 Manipulating
- 1.3 Grasping

Prime area 3: Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- i) Becoming me**
 - 1.1 Character virtues
 - 1.2 Managing self
 - 1.3 Physical health
 - 1.4 Mental health

- ii) Becoming a friend**
 - 1.1 Self-image
 - 1.2 Relationships

- iii) Becoming a citizen**
 - 1.1 Economic well-being
 - 1.2 Taking responsibility

Specific Area 1: Literacy

- i) Reading is a gateway to learning**
 - 1.1 Reading words
 - 1.2 Understanding texts

- ii) Writing is fundamental for learning and communication**
 - 1.1 Handwriting
 - 1.2 Sentence writing
 - 1.3 Sharing with others

Specific Area 2: Mathematics

- i) Counting is a way of quantifying**
 - 1.1 Recognising numerals
 - 1.2 Quantity
 - 1.3 Rules

- ii) Number sense**
 - 1.1 Cardinal numbers
 - 1.2 Ordinal numbers
 - 1.3 Nominal numbers

- 1.4 Quantity
- 1.5 Subitising

iii) Patterns

- 1.1 Rules
- 1.2 Generalisations
- 1.3 Different forms

iv) Finger gnosis

- 1.1 Finger perception
- 1.2 Connect fingers with numbers

v) Sets

- 1.1 Attributes
- 1.2 Comparing and ordering
- 1.3 Sorting

vi) Measurement

- 1.1 Attributes
- 1.2 Comparison
- 1.3 Accuracy

vii) Shapes

- 1.1 Attributes
- 1.2 Faces of 3D shape are 2D
- 1.3 Shapes within shapes

viii) Spatial relationships

- 1.1 Position and direction
- 1.2 Perspective
- 1.3 Visualising space

ix) Data

- Gathering data
- Organising data
- Describing data

Specific Area 3: Understanding the World

i) History

- 1.1 Investigating the past
- 1.2 Communicating historically
- 1.3 Understanding chronology
- 1.4 Building an overview of the past

ii) Geography

- 1.1 Investigating places
- 1.2 Investigating patterns
- 1.3 Communicating geographically

iii) Ecology

- 1.1 Custodians of the planet

iv) Design and technology

- 1.1 Mastering practical skills
- 1.2 Taking inspiration from products
- 1.3 Designing and making

v) Science

(Biology)

- 1.1 Plants
- 1.2 Animals and humans

(Chemistry)

- 1.1 Materials

(Physics)

- 1.1 Light
- 1.2 Sound
- 1.3 Forces and magnets
- 1.4 Earth and space

(Scientific enquiry)

- 1.1 Observing
- 1.2 Predicting
- 1.3 Checking
- 1.4 Recording
- 1.5 Concluding
- 1.6 Communicating

Specific Area 4: Expressive Arts and Design Curriculum

i) Cultural awareness

- 1.1 Visual arts
- 1.2 Music
- 1.3 Dancing
- 1.4 Playing and pretending

	Key Vocabulary:
Communication and Language	Attend, listen, talk, understand
Physical Development	Muscles, rest, pull, squeeze, push, strong, climb, gallop, kick, hit, run, skip, hop, throw, jump, accuracy, grasp, build, join, control, paint, cut, stack, draw, texture
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Choose, help, conflict, manners, emotions, rules, fair, share, feelings, sorry, different, listen, friend, special, kind, talk, collaborate, planet, democracy, recycle, environment, responsibility, job, save, look after, spend, money, world
Literacy	Author, sound, book, text, letter, title, page, vocabulary, print, word, core strength, letters, long, midline, purpose, round, sentences, shoulder strength, tripod grip, vertical, words
Mathematics	Counting, how many, less, more, greater than, fewer than, numbers to ten, compare, describe, first, match, order, second, third, complete, copy, extend, pattern, recognise, repeat, rule, same, symmetrical, add, altogether, count on, difference, equal, plus, subtract, take away, count, double, group, half, pair, sets, share, finger perception, fingers, five, ten, tools, touch, after, before, empty, fast, full, heavier than, heavy, holds less, holds more, light, lighter than, long, longer than, measure, minute, narrow, short, shorter than, slow, small, soon, weigh, wide, circle, corner, cuboid, cylinder, edge, face, hexagon, quadrilateral, rectangle, side, sphere, square, triangle, backwards, behind, between, flip, forwards, in front, map, next to, on, pathway, position, rotate, route, under, where, bar graph, chart, label, pictogram
Understanding the World	After, before, first, I think, because, last week, new, old, second, today, tomorrow, yesterday, beach, church, cinema, desert, globe, hill, map, mosque, mountain, railway, rainforest, river, road, supermarket, animals, community, empathy, environment, natural, plants, responsibility, take care, architecture, break, design, join, make, materials, measure, properties, repeat, speed, stability, test, think, animal, check, describe, explain, hypothesise, material, observe, plant, predict, pull, push,, seasons, weather
Expressive Arts and Design	Artist, collage, colour, comment, draw, feelings, materials, mixing, observe, paint, print, sculpt, technique, tools, beat, dynamics, genre, instrument, melodic shape, melody, pitch, rhythm, structure, tempo, texture, timbre, angry, dance, expression, feelings, happy, music, sad, stimulus, character, conflict, resolution, play, pretend ,role, rules, self-regulation