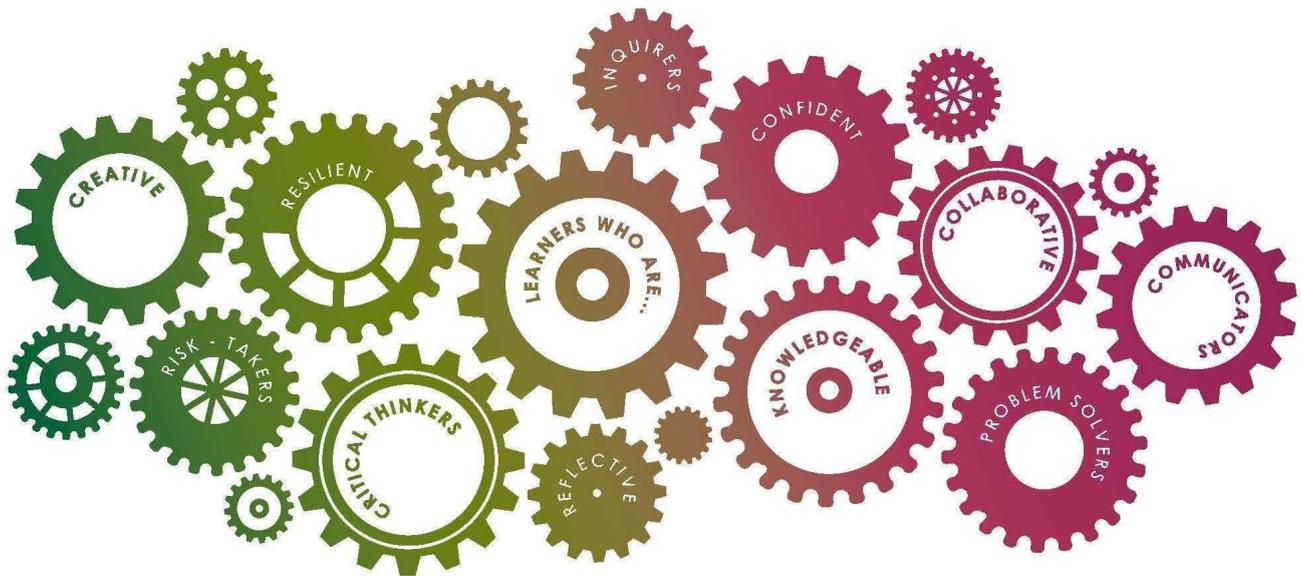


# Welcome to The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

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Welcome to Claires Court EYFS. During your child's time with us, they will embark on many different learning experiences, enabling them to become a confident and resilient learner. This curriculum statement is designed to provide information about what your child will be learning and how they will be learning.

## Clares Court Essentials



## Clares Court Curriculum

At Claires Court we are fully committed to providing the very best education for your son or daughter. We have worked very hard to develop a curriculum which is individual, current and exciting. For many years now, we have not been restricted by the National Curriculum. Instead we have a Progression of Skills for each subject which is adaptable to each individual pupil. Our teachers differentiate through meaningful and fun activities, which incorporate problem solving, inquiry, critical thinking and risk taking.

As well as having your child's academic needs at the centre of our approach, we pride ourselves on our nurturing learning environment and our exceptional Pastoral Care. Well-being (both mental and physical) is key to feeling secure, confident and building resilience - features which we aim to instil in your child. Our pastoral aims are woven into every aspect of our provision ensuring that whatever your child experiences is with the very best intentions for them.

L Kirby

Leanne Kirby, Head of Juniors (Boys, Girls & Nursery)  
September 2022

# The EYFS curriculum

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Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

The EYFS is about *how* children learn, as well as *what* they learn. Children need opportunities to develop their own play and independent exploration. This is enjoyable and motivating. They also need adults to 'scaffold' their learning by giving them just enough help to achieve something they could not do independently. Helping children to think, discuss and plan ahead is important, like gathering the materials they need to make a den before they start building. These are ways of helping children to develop the characteristics of effective learning. Children learn and develop more from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives.

When we give every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow.

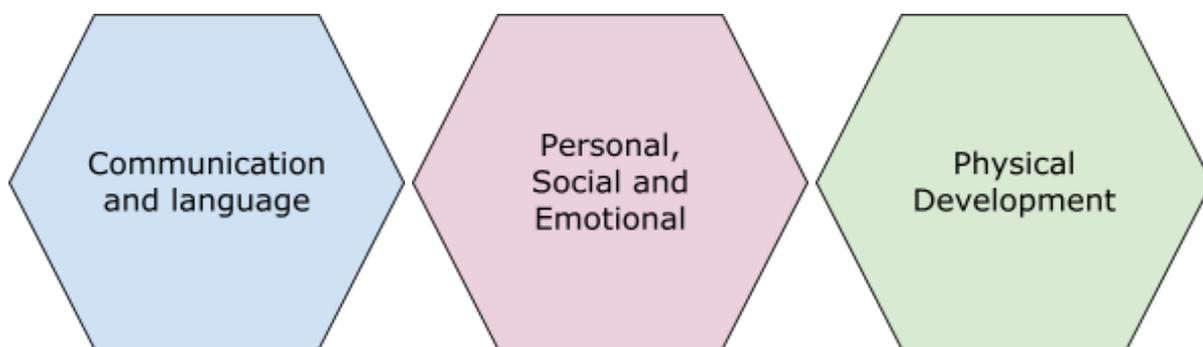
At Claires Court we recognise that it is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others.

The EYFS framework identifies **three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:**

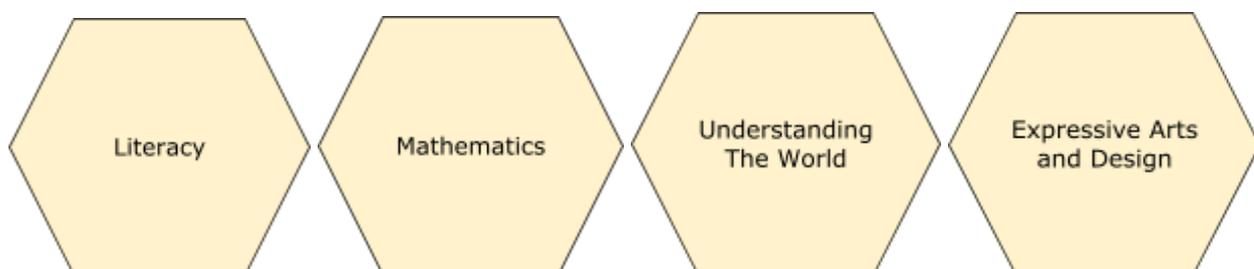
1. **Creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things
2. **Active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
3. **Playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

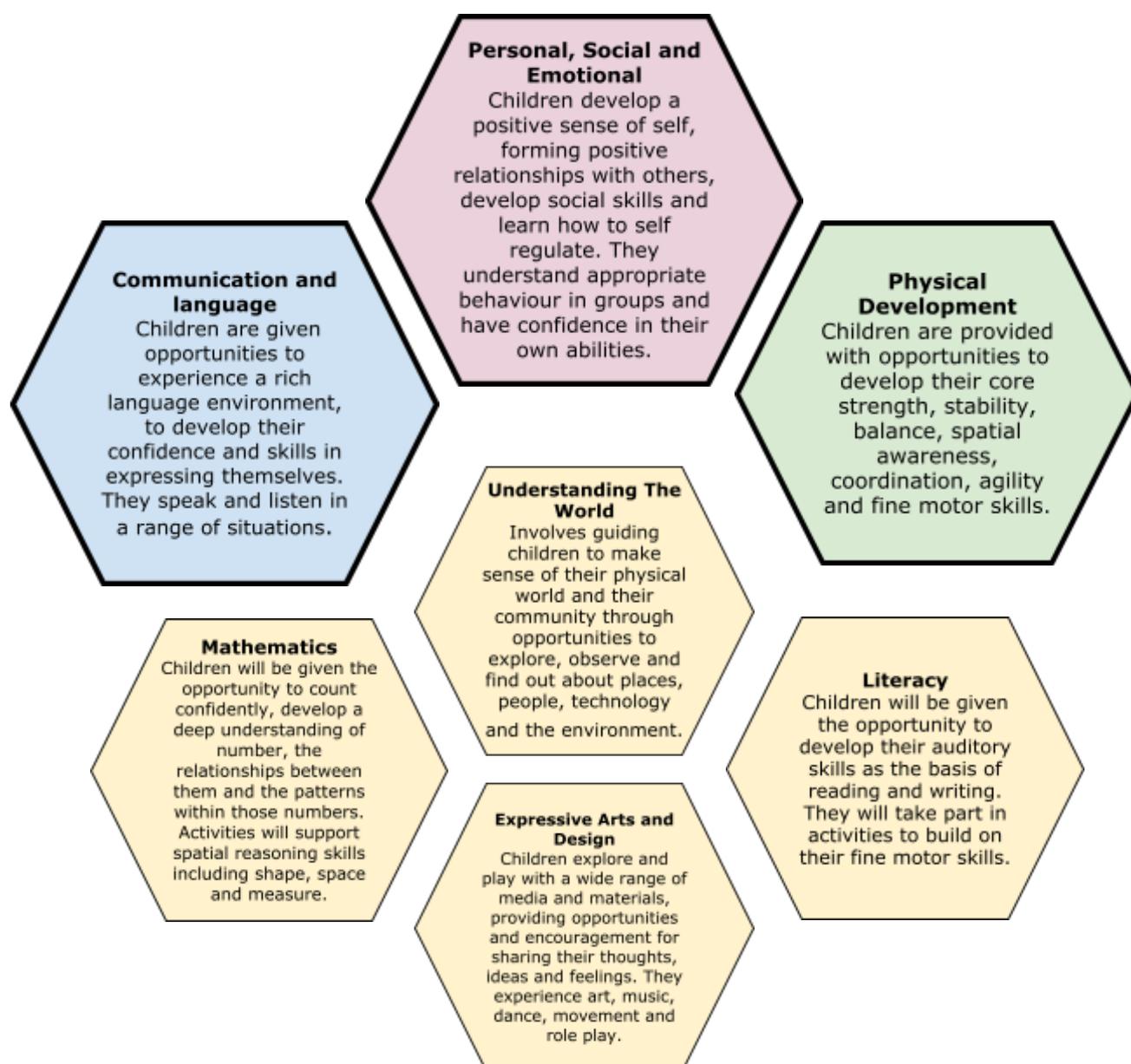
The EYFS framework outlines **seven areas of learning and development**.

There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:



There are **four specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:





The seven areas of learning will be taught through various termly topics. However, young children's learning is often driven by their interests so plans will be flexible.

*'Babies and young children do not develop in a fixed way. Their development is like a spider's web with many strands, not a straight line. Depth in early learning is much more important than covering lots of things in a superficial way.'* Development Matters - Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

## Specialist Teaching

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At Claires Court we offer the following additional opportunities led by specialist teachers.

MUSIC

FRENCH

SWIMMING

SPORT

# Assessment and Reporting

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## **How will I know how my child is doing?**

Our Early Years' Team will use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If we have any concerns about your child's progress, we will discuss these with you.

In Nursery there will be:

- A 2 year old progress check. This will happen between the ages of 24 to 36 months
- A settling in report for children moving to our 3 and 4 year old rooms. This will be done after the first half term of them starting
- A leavers report when a child leaves our setting or due to moving onto school

In Reception there will be:

Three parents' evenings and work viewings a year; one each term.

In EYFS we use an online system called Evidence Me which allows us to take photos of your children achieving 'Wow Moments'. We are then able to create a short explanation of the observation and link it to the Early Years Framework. Twice termly, we will then send you these observations via your chosen email(s).

We believe that a good home/school relationship is very important for a child to flourish and so we want you to feel that you can contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns or that you want to simply 'touch base'.