

Reception – Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Overview

Half-term	Communication & Language	Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	PSED	Physical Development	Expressive Arts & Design
Autumn 1	Listen and respond to others; follow simple instructions; develop attention and turn-taking; talk about experiences and feelings.	Enjoy stories, rhymes and poems; develop phonological awareness; recognise own name; begin systematic phonics; practise writing name and meaningful marks.	Subitise small quantities; count reliably within 5; recognise numerals 1–5; compare groups; explore shape, space and measure through play.	Talk about family, home and immediate environment; explore natural materials; notice changes in weather and seasons; develop understanding of classroom/community.	Settle into routines; develop relationships; identify and communicate feelings; develop independence; understand simple rules and boundaries.	Develop gross-motor control; climbing, balancing, running and spatial awareness; develop pencil grip and fine-motor strength.	Explore colour, texture, sound and materials; sing familiar songs; join in with rhymes; use role play and small-world play.
Autumn 2	Retell familiar events; listen to stories with increasing concentration; learn and use new vocabulary; answer questions and explain ideas.	Blend and segment simple words; read decodable words; recognise some common exception words; write labels/captions; develop letter formation.	Count beyond 5; compare numbers; explore composition of numbers to 5; investigate patterns; recognise and describe 2D shapes; explore length and capacity.	Explore seasonal change; compare environments; investigate materials; talk about past and present experiences; celebrate similarities and differences.	Build friendships; cooperate and share; recognise emotions in self/others; begin resolving minor conflicts; develop self-care routines.	Develop coordination, ball skills and spatial awareness; strengthen fine-motor control; use tools safely and effectively.	Experiment with painting, drawing, printing and construction; develop imaginative role play; explore rhythm and musical patterns.
Spring 1	Use longer sentences; participate in conversations; explain thinking; use new vocabulary in context; listen carefully to others.	Read simple sentences using phonics; develop fluency; write phrases and simple sentences; use finger spaces and increasingly accurate letter formation.	Develop numbers to 10; subitise; compare quantities; explore composition of numbers; addition/subtraction through practical contexts; investigate 3D shape and spatial language.	Investigate local environment and community; explore maps; compare places; observe growth and change; discuss people who help us.	Develop resilience; talk about challenges; understand healthy choices; show increasing independence; work cooperatively in groups.	Develop handwriting readiness and control; use scissors, pencils and tools with increasing precision; develop jumping, hopping, throwing and catching.	Develop planned creations; combine materials; represent ideas through art; explore beat, tempo and pitch; develop story-based role play.
Spring 2	Express ideas clearly; use vocabulary linked to learning; predict and explain; retell stories in sequence; engage in sustained conversations.	Read increasingly complex decodable sentences; spell simple words using phonics; write short sentences independently; develop punctuation awareness.	Numbers to 10 and beyond; explore number bonds; compare quantities; investigate doubling/halving; explore time, money and measure through play.	Explore living things; investigate plants and animals; discuss habitats; observe seasonal changes; compare natural environments.	Understand how actions affect others; develop empathy; manage emotions increasingly independently; follow rules and negotiate with peers.	Refine gross-motor skills; develop handwriting fluency; use tools safely; develop control, balance and coordination.	Develop confidence performing; create music and movement; use props imaginatively; explore sculpture, collage and mixed media.
Summer 1	Speak confidently in different situations; explain reasoning; use increasingly sophisticated vocabulary; listen and respond appropriately.	Read simple texts with increasing fluency; discuss characters and events; write sentences independently; apply phonics to spelling; reread own writing.	Secure numbers to 10; explore numbers beyond 10; recall number bonds; solve simple problems; compare and order numbers; explore patterns and measures.	Develop understanding of the wider world; compare past and present; explore different cultures and communities; investigate seasonal/environmental change.	Develop independence and self-regulation; persevere with challenges; take responsibility; form positive relationships; understand how to keep healthy and safe.	Develop strength, stamina and coordination; refine handwriting; manage clothing and equipment independently; develop confidence in physical activity.	Develop individual artistic preferences; create and evaluate work; perform songs/poems/stories; develop collaborative imaginative play.
Summer 2	Meet the ELG expectation for listening, attention, understanding and speaking; communicate effectively; articulate ideas and explanations clearly.	Secure early reading behaviours; demonstrate comprehension; write recognisable sentences; spell using taught phonics; write for different purposes.	Secure ELG mathematical understanding; numbers, numerical patterns, counting, composition, subitising, comparison and problem solving.	Demonstrate understanding of people, culture, communities, nature, past/present and the natural world; make observations and explain similarities/differences.	Develop confidence, independence, self-regulation and positive relationships; manage feelings and behaviour appropriately; make healthy and safe choices.	Demonstrate increasing control and coordination; use fine-motor skills effectively; move confidently and safely; manage personal needs independently.	Meet ELG expectations through creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive, performing, storytelling, music, art and role play.

EYFS RECEPTION — STATUTORY END-OF-YEAR EXPECTATIONS

The following are the **Early Learning Goals (ELGs)** that Reception children are assessed against at the end of the EYFS.

ELG	By the end of Reception, children are expected to...
Listening, Attention & Understanding	Listen attentively and respond appropriately; demonstrate understanding of what has been said; hold attention and respond to questions and instructions.
Speaking	Participate in discussions; express ideas and feelings using full sentences; use past, present and future forms accurately enough to communicate effectively; develop a rich vocabulary.
Comprehension	Demonstrate understanding of what they read; retell stories and narratives; anticipate events; use and understand new vocabulary.
Word Reading	Say a sound for each letter; read words consistent with their phonic knowledge; read some common exception words; demonstrate fluency and understanding.
Writing	Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed; spell words by identifying sounds and representing them with letters; write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.
Number	Have a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including composition; subitise; automatically recall number bonds within 5 and some within 10; verbally count beyond 20.
Numerical Patterns	Compare quantities; understand one more/one less; explore doubling, halving and sharing; continue, copy and create repeating patterns; identify relationships between numbers.
Past & Present	Talk about the past and present; understand the past through environments, characters, events and experiences.
People, Culture & Communities	Describe their immediate environment; understand similarities and differences between places, families, communities and cultures; know that other people have different beliefs and traditions.
The Natural World	Explore the natural world; make observations; understand some important processes and changes, including seasons, plants and animals.
Self-Regulation	Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others; regulate behaviour; set and work towards simple goals; wait, concentrate and persist.
Managing Self	Be confident to try new activities; show independence, resilience and perseverance; explain reasons for rules; manage personal needs; make healthy choices.
Building Relationships	Work and play cooperatively; form positive relationships; show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings; resolve conflicts appropriately.
Gross Motor Skills	Negotiate space and obstacles safely; demonstrate strength, balance and coordination; move energetically and confidently.
Fine Motor Skills	Hold pencils effectively; use a range of small tools competently; demonstrate accuracy and care when drawing.
Creating with Materials	Safely use and explore materials, tools and techniques; experiment with colour, design, texture, form and function; share creations and explain processes.
Being Imaginative & Expressive	Invent, adapt and recount narratives; sing in a group; perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories; move in response to music; explore and express ideas through art, music and role play.