

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be provided with experiences and support which will help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others; respect for others; social skills; and a positive disposition to learn.

What Personal, Social and Emotional development means for children

- For children, being special to someone and well cared for is vital for their physical, social and emotional health and well-being.
- Being acknowledged and affirmed by important people in their lives leads to children gaining confidence and inner strength through secure attachments with these people.
- Exploration within close relationships leads to the growth of self-assurance, promoting a sense of belonging which allows children to explore the world from a secure base.
- Children need adults to set a good example and to give them opportunities for interaction with others so that they can develop positive ideas about themselves and others.
- Children who are encouraged to feel free to express their ideas and their feelings, such as joy, sadness, frustration and fear, can develop strategies to cope with new, challenging or stressful situations.

Communication, Language and Literacy

Children's learning and competence in communicating, speaking and listening, being read to and beginning to read and write must be supported and extended. They must be provided with opportunity and encouragement to use their skills in a range of situations and for a range of purposes, and be supported in developing in confidence and disposition to do so.

What Communication, Language and Literacy means for children

- Communicating and being with others helps children to build social relationships which provide opportunities for friendship, empathy and sharing emotions. The ability to communicate helps children to participate more fully in society.
- To become skilful communicators, babies and children need to be with people who have meaning for them and with whom they have warm loving relationships, such as their family or carers and, in a group situation, a key person whom they know and trust.
- Babies respond differently to different sounds and from an early age are able to distinguish sound patterns. They learn to talk by being talked to.
- Babies and children use their voices to make contact and to let people know what they need and how they feel, establishing their own identities and personalities.
- Parents and immediate family members most easily understand their babies' and children's communications and can often interpret for others.

- All children learn best through activities and experiences that engage all the senses. For example, music, dance, rhymes and songs play a key role in language development.
- As children develop speaking and listening skills they build the foundations for literacy, for making sense of visual and verbal signs and ultimately for reading and writing. Children need lots of opportunities to interact with others as they develop these skills, and to use a wide variety of resources for expressing their understanding, including mark making, drawing, modelling, reading and writing.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Children must be supported in developing their understanding of Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practice and talk about their developing understanding. They must be provided with opportunities to practice and extend their skills in these areas and to gain confidence and competence in their use.

What Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy means for children

- Babies' and children's mathematical development occurs as they seek pattern, make connections and recognise relationships through finding out about and working with numbers and counting, with sorting and matching and with shape, space and measures.
- Children use their knowledge and skills in these areas to solve problems, generate new questions and make connections across other areas of Learning and Development.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Children must be supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. Their learning must be supported through opportunities for them to use a range of tools safely; encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real-life situations; undertake practical 'experiments' and work with a range of materials.

What Knowledge and Understanding of the World means for children

- Babies and children find out about the world through exploration and from a variety of sources, including their families and friends, the media, and through what they see and hear.
- Babies and children need regular opportunities to learn about different ways of life, to be given accurate information and develop positive and caring attitudes towards others.
- Children should be helped to learn to respect and value all people and learn to avoid misapprehensions and negative attitudes towards others when they develop their Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

- Children should be involved in the practical applications of their knowledge and skills which will promote self-esteem through allowing them to make decisions about what to investigate and how to do it.

Physical Development

The Physical development of babies and young children must be encouraged through the provision of opportunities for them to be active and interactive and to improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement. They must be supported in using all of their senses to learn about the world around them and to make connections between new information and what they already know. They must be supported in developing an understanding of the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food.

What Physical Development means for children

- Babies and children learn by being active and Physical Development takes place across all areas of Learning and Development.
- Physical Development helps children gain confidence in what they can do.
- Physical Development enables children to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active.
- Physical Development helps children to develop a positive sense of well-being.
- Good health in the early years helps to safeguard health and well-being throughout life. It is important that children develop healthy habits when they first learn about food and activity. Growing with appropriate weight gain in the first years of life helps to guard against obesity in later life.

Creative Development

Children's creativity must be extended by the provision of support for their curiosity, exploration and play. They must be provided with opportunities to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings, for example, through a variety of art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role-play activities, mathematics, design and technology.

What Creative Development means for children

- Creativity is about taking risks and making connections and is strongly linked to play.
- Creativity emerges as children become absorbed in action and explorations of their own ideas, expressing them through movement, making and transforming things using media and materials such as crayons, paints, scissors, words, sounds, movement, props and make-believe.
- Creativity involves children in initiating their own learning and making choices and decisions.

- Children's responses to what they see, hear and experience through their senses are individual and the way they represent their experiences is unique and valuable.
- Being creative enables babies and children to explore many processes, media and materials and to make new things emerge as a result.

(Taken from the EYFS/DCSF 2008)