



As stated in Development Matters, the Early Years curriculum should not be designed to be used as a tick list for development and instead is designed to help make informed decisions about what a child needs to learn and to be able to do next and where they are in their learning journey/development. This document has been designed to support both planning and assessment as a 'best fit' model when looking at children as individuals and what, as a trust, we feel are the steps needed to build strong foundations for successful progress. Each school will have their own wider demographics that will need to be taken into consideration, as well as their own schemes of work, for example, their phonics scheme. It is important to remember that many preschool classes will have different intakes throughout the year and therefore children may be at very different points in their learning journey.

This is a very useful guide that we would recommend sharing with parents/carers to support their understanding of their child's development in the early years:

https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf

Communication and Language	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Listening and Attention Speaking	Single channelled attention, using child's name helps to focus their attention to something else.	Focuses on an activity of interest for a longer amount of time.	Can focus for a short carpet session of around 3 minutes.	Focuses for longer periods of time on a range of activities.	Listens and joins in with conversations that are of interest to them.	Listens to others in one- to-one or small groups when conversation interests them.
Understanding	Listens to stories and can understand some of what has happened, with the help of the	More willing to engage in direction from an adult. Listens to stories and can	Listens to others when they are interested in the topic.	Using word endings but this may not always be correct, e.g. 'runned' instead of 'ran'.	Responds to directions (if not focused on own choice of activity).	Showing sustained attention when listening to rhymes, songs and stories and beginning to
	Generally find it difficult to be directed by an adult (heavily motivated by their own	show an interest in what is being read, e.g. by pointing at the illustrations or talking about what they can see.	Enjoys listening to longer stories. Begins to pay attention to	Joins in with repeated refrains in stories that they are familiar with.	Can split attention more easily between more than one thing, however this still may be developing.	recall key phrases. Begin to shift attention when required.
	agenda/interests, preferring to focus on this).	Can focus for majority of a short carpet session of around 3 minutes.	more than one thing at a time, which can be difficult.	Use sentences of 4-6 words to communicate, sometimes using conjunctions e.g.	Can continue conversations for many turns, sometimes initiating them.	Can recall key events pa
	Can focus for majority of a short carpet session of around 3 minutes. Will most likely need to learn the carpet rules e.g. listening ears, looking eyes, voices off. Children should only sit for a minute of their age.	Beginning to have 2-way conversations, often jumping topic to topic and not continuing for many turns. Begins to use word endings	Vocabulary is influenced by their experiences and it is wider. Their vocabulary will continue to develop throughout the year.	'because' 'and' 'so' Begins to understand that things happened in the past and can use some past tense e.g. yesterday and may use this when speaking (not always	Starts conversations with an adult or friend and can continue it for many turns and stay on topic. Use talk to organise themselves and their play.	of songs from memory. Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
	Shows an interest in play with sounds, songs and rhymes. Listens with interest to short stories and action songs	e.g. dogs/going.Begins to ask some simple questions.Can pronounce multi-syllabic	Understanding of conversation rules are improving, as well as attention to focus on topics in conversation. Can continue it for many	accurately) Begins to understand 'why'/'how' questions and respond appropriately.	Understands more complex instructions that involve more vocabulary.	Can ask simple questions and initiate conversation with familiar people, continuing for many
	(joining in too).	words e.g. 'computer' 'banana'.	Use longer sentences of 4-6 words.		What does this look like? Paying attention to more than one thing at a time may	turns. Know many rhymes, be able to talk about





Listens to other people's talk with interest but can be distracted by other stimuli.

Speaks in simple sentences of 3 words or more.

May use gestures alongside their talk e.g. reaching towards a toy and saying 'I want it'.

Joins in with repeated phrases/actions in nursery rhymes.

Can verbalise emotions e.g. 'I am sad'.

Use the speech sounds p, b, m, w and pronounce:

- l/r/w/y
- f/th
- s/sh/ch/dz/j

and multi-syllabic words such as 'banana' and 'computer'

Understands simple instructions with 1 key word e.g. get your bag.

Develops understanding of simple concepts e.g. big/little.

Can identify familiar objects.

What does this look like?

Identifying familiar objects may look like pointing to the big boat when it is mentioned in the story or finding the apple from the fruit bowl when asked to get an apple.

Begin to talk about things that are of particular importance to them.

Understands longer sentences e.g. 'make teddy jump'.

Demonstrates understanding of simple concepts in play e.g. making a train move fast/slow.

Responds to simple instructions e.g. to put away an apron.

Understands action words e.g. 'who is running?'

Understands who/what/where in simple questions.

What does this look like?

Simple questions may include:

- What's that?
- Where's my teddy?

Can describe things they see/interact with e.g. water being wet or a giraffe being tall.

Can verbalise emotions and explain why they are feeling that way e.g. 'I am sad because...'

Developing use of word endings.

Uses what/where/who questions.

Sings some familiar songs independently..

Identifies familiar objects and their properties.

What does this look like?

Identifying familiar objects example - an adult asking for the blue car or the shiny apple and the child is able to find it without adult pointing.

include cutting with scissors and talking to peers at the same time, or building with bricks whilst listening to the ideas of their peers.

Develop pronunciation but may have problems saying:

- Some sounds: r, j, th, ch and sh
- Multi-syllabic words such as 'pterodactyl'. 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus'.

familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.

Can recall events from a familiar story

Beginning to understand how and why questions.

Follow a two part instruction

What does this look like?

If a child is playing with a toy, they are still aware of the environment around them and turn their attention when needed. For example if their name is called.

An example of a two part instruction: please put your bottle away and get your coat.

An example of organising themselves in play 'let's go on a bus, you sit there and I'll be the driver'
An example of conjunctions 'I like ice cream because it makes my tummy shiver'





Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Emotional Development	Begin to find ways to	Express their likes and dislikes	Begin to become more	Begin to follow rules and	Remember rules without	Show an awareness of their
Self-regulation	comfort themselves when	and begin to develop the	outgoing with new people	understand their role	needing an adult to remind	own feelings and talk about a
Managaine Call	upset, using support from	confidence to try new things	and situations	within the class e.g. it is	them	wider range of feelings.
Managing Self	a familiar adult			everybody's responsibility	Begin to talk with others to	Know who to seek support
Building Relationships		Separate from carers with	Begin to understand why	to tidy up	find solutions to their	from and begin to explore
ballating Relationships	Begin to separate from	more confidence,	rules are important		problems	different ways to manage
	carers with the support of	occasionally needing support		Seek support from an		their emotions.
	a familiar and beginning	from a familiar adult	Begin to show more control	adult to solve conflicts	Begin to take responsibility	
	to understand that their	Desire to feel and a second field of	over their actions e.g.		for their actions and	Understands why rules are
	carer will come back	Begin to feel more confident	waiting for a turn rather than snatching a toy and seeking	Develop appropriate	develop skills to reconcile	important and begins to
	D (to express a wider range of emotions	help to do this	ways of being assertive	by finding solutions.	follow them accordingly.
	Become more aware of their emotions and how to	emotions	Help to do this	Begin to refuse help from		A L St. St. St. St. St.
	manage them	Begin to select and use	Begin to understand and	adults and become more	Understand that they are	Adapting themselves to suit different environments and
	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	activities and resources, with	explain emotions more	independent	part of a wider community and take some	social situations.
	Some may need support	help when needed.	deeply e.g. "I'm feeling sad	· ·	responsibility for this e.g.	social situations.
	and encouragement to		because"	Continue to develop	tidying toys away, water	Know what they like and
	have a go at being more	Begin to explore more		independence e.g.	plants etc	dislike.
	independent	complex emotions through	Begin to understand that	putting shoes and coats		
		stories and play	they are part of a wider	on without support	Be increasingly	Show an awareness of rules
	Become independent in	Socking out friends to play	community (e.g. the class/school)	Desire to the selection of the	independent to meet their	and behavioural expectations
	going to the toilet but may	Seeking out friends to play with and playing alongside	Class/scrioor/	Begin to understand how to make healthier choices	own needs e.g. using the	within the classroom and
	still need reminders and	others, beginning to develop	Begin to extend play with	regarding food, drink and	toilet, washing hands etc	take on some responsibilities.
	help with personal care	sharing skills	others by making	activity	Destruction of seconds	Karandhat dhata ada asaa
	D	Sharing skins	suggestions and exploring	delivity	Begin to play alongside	Know that their actions can impact others.
	Begin to form friendships		negotiation	Begin to understand how	others more collaboratively	impact others.
	with others			others may be feeling	Have seen as a sure	Manage their own personal
	6.1				Have some secure	hygiene such as going to the
	Become more confident			What does this look	friendships with others but	toilet.
	to play independently and			like?	understand that they are	
	with other children				still able to play	Shows independence when
				A child may use phrases	independently.	putting on coats, shoes,
	What does this look like?			such as "Stop. I don't like	Begin to become more	wellies etc. May need some
	what does this look like?			that."	outgoing with unfamiliar	support.
	Children may go and play				people and in new social	Ctarting to build as naturative
	on their own but come				situations	Starting to build constructive and respectful relationships.
	back to check in with a				Situations	and respectful relationships.
	familiar adult					Engage in positive
						interactions with adults and
						peers.
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			Play collaboratively with one or more children, sometimes initiating play.
			Becoming more able to leave main carers in new situations with support from a familiar adult.
			What does this look like?
			An example of taking on responsibility: tidying away after using resources, taking on a job role like collecting fruit for snack and following routines. An example of knowing the impact of their actions: Seeing a child upset and offering them a toy, knowing that if they push another child they could get hurt/become sad.

Physical development	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Gross motor skills	Use whole body movements	Move their bodies to music,	Begin to use steps and	Ride a bike or scooter with	Begin to become more	Chooses to move in a range
E	to join in with action songs	showing they can stop and	climbing equipment more	good control and balance	adventurous and take risks	of ways, moving freely and
Fine motor skills	Degin to well, actaly in degree	start in a range of poses, beginning to develop	independently	and change direction	within their play	with confidence making changes to body shape,
Health and wellbeing	Begin to walk safely indoors and run safely outdoors	balance and remember	Balance on a scooter or	Climb, run and jump	Throw and catch with	position and pace of
		sequences and patterns.	bike with more confidence	independently with	increasing accuracy	movement such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, walking,
	Begin to develop their own			increasing control and co-		hopping, jumping etc.
	spatial awareness	Begin to take shoes/coats off	Begin to make large arm	ordination	Skip, hop, stand on one	nopping, jamping etc.
		and put them back on with	movements accurately		leg and hold a pose for a	Can sit showing some core
	Climb up steps (e.g. to a	support.	using ribbons or scarves	Understand how to kick or	game like musical statues.	strength when needed.
	slide) with support			throw a ball in an intended		
		Begin to explore basic		direction	Collaborate with others to	
		equipment where available			manage large items, such	





Know to use their legs to push themselves along on a bike or scooter

Begin to experiment with different mark-making tools (e.g. paintbrush, pencils, chalk etc).

Begin to use squeezy scissors to make snips in paper (may hold scissors in 2 hands)

Pick up small objects with their fingers (e.g. buttons or beads).

Begin to understand that soap and water are needed to wash hands

(e.g. bats and balls, kicking and throwing balls of varying sizes)

Begin to match their physical skills to tasks and activities

Begin to use tweezers to pick objects up and move them

Begin to gain more control over mark-making tools

Begin to manipulate playdough in a range of way (e.g. rolling, splatting, poking, pinching, squeezing etc)

Begin to cover mouth/nose when sneezing with reminders

Put shoes on and off independently (unless with laces)

Push and pull with strength (e.g. wheelbarrows, trolleys etc)

Begin to hold a knife, fork and spoon correctly

Manipulate playdough to make simple things e.g. cakes, pizzas etc

Continue to develop control of mark-making tools to create basic marks

Begin to hold scissors with fingers and thumb to make snips in paper

Continue to wash hands and understand when it is necessary to do so Start to take part in some group activities with they make up for themselves

Know how to use pens/pencils/paintbrushes to make recognisable shapes and patterns

Use scissors with increasing accuracy to cut along a piece of paper or simple pattern

Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan

Know to cover mouth and nose when sneezing and access tissues independently

Begin to understand how can keep our bodies healthy (e.g. eating a balanced diet, drinking water, exercise etc). as carrying large blocks or crates.

Use a pencil with increasing control using a comfortable grip

Begin to add details to their pictures

Understand the importance of hygiene e.g. washing hands, brushing teeth

Continue to develop an understanding of making healthy choices

Can understand and choose how to move across different objects/terrains.

Can climb up and down stairs using alternate feet.

Has an awareness of their body in space.

Can run safely on whole foot.

Sit correctly on a balance bike and move confidently.

Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials, such as paint brushes, pencils for drawing.

Beginning to show a preference for a dominant hand.

Beginning to attempt zips with support.

Begins to use anti-clockwise movement and retrace vertical lines.

Uses a knife and fork.

Developing pencil grasp, mostly using quadrupod grasp and shows control when drawing/writing.

What does this look like?

If a child is running through a busy area, they can slow down and navigate the space.





TYPICAL PENCIL GRASP DEVELOPMENT FOR HANDWRITING



Literacy	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Comprehension	Joins in for some known	Joins in with repeated	Begin to recall some	Know and talk about their	Begin to re-tell familiar	Can recall information from
'	songs, rhymes and phrases	phrases in familiar stories	events in stories that they	favourite books	stories within their play	stories they have listened t
Phonics	ξ, , τ	·	know well			and engage in conversatio
	Listen to and enjoy stories	Know that books have words		Recognise letters from	Know and talk about	about the story.
Writing		and pictures	Begin to discuss how	their own name in other	events within a known	
	Talk about what they can		characters are feeling	contexts	story	Can discuss characters fro
	hear around them	Know which way to hold a	within a story			stories and make prediction
		book and turn the pages		Understand that print can	Begin to talk about the	about what might happen next.
	Identify some sounds in the		Begin to recognise	have different meanings	things they like/dislike	Hext.
	environment	Copy a familiar sound	rhyming words		within a story	Can sequence a story usin
	Experiment different marks			Begin to make predictions	D	visual aids or story maps.
	that they can make with a	Continue to develop control	Begin to add meaning to	about what may happen	Begin to listen to the individual sounds within	
	range of tools	of mark-making tools	the marks that they make	next in stories	words and may attempt to	Can recognise own name
	Tange of tools				orally blend/segment	and beginning to recogni
			Draw using some early	20911101100911001101	them	familiar letters.
			mark-making patterns	with same initial sounds as		Kanayathat maint in mand fro
			Denie te une en inc the in	their name	Find or recognise words	Know that print is read fro left to right in books and
			Begin to recognise their name/letters in their name	Begin to count or clap	with the same initial	words carry meaning.
			name/letters in their name	syllables in a word	sounds	words carry meaning.
				synables in a word	B	Recognising print in the
				Begin to add more detail	Begin to write some	environment
				to the pictures they draw	letters within a child's	
				e.g. faces on people	name	Aware that writing
					Company and a manager to a mile a sec	communicates meaning
					Some emergent writers	
					may write their full names	





					or familiar words and letters e.g. mummy.	Give meaning to marks they make in a range of contexts Understand that thoughts can be written down Write their name, copying it from a name card, or try to write it from memory. Copies adults writing behaviour, making marks and drawing with increasing control.
Mathematics	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Numerical patterns *Shape, space and measure	Can Subitise 1 object. Can Counts accurately to 3. May count out of order e.g. 1, 2, 3, 6, 8. Can notice patterns and arrange things in patterns, such as separating things by colour or grouping cows and horses separately. Can compare amounts, saying e.g. 'lots' 'more' 'same'. Will create simple structures, usually towers of blocks on top of one another.	Can subitise 1-2 objects. Interest in representing numbers on fingers, not always accurate. Counts accurately to 5.	Subitise up to 3 objects. Can count 5 objects from a larger group. Can represent numbers 1-3 on fingers. May recognise numerals that are special e.g. '3' if they are 3 years old. Understands cardinal principle. Counts accurately to 10. Recognise simple shapes e.g. circle and star. What does this look like? Cardinal principle – knowing that the last number reached when counting a small set of	Begins to compare quantities within 10. Recognise numerals 1-5. Represent numbers 1-5 on fingers. Matching sets of objects to numerals (up to 3). Use language 'more' or 'less' comparing numbers within 5. Can copy ABAB patterns e.g. red, blue, red, blue. Continue to recognise shapes and also patterns, such as 'spotty' 'pointy' 'stripes'.	Begins to represent numbers within 10 using pictorial representations. Recognie numerals 1-5. Can represent numbers on fingers 1-5 quickly. Experiments with own symbols and numbers. Count using 1:1 correspondence. Can continue ABAB patterns. Continue to recognise shapes. Understand position through words alone with no pointing e.g. "The bag is under the table."	Can use key mathematical language e.g. 'take one away', 'altogether', 'add one more'. Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers. Can sort, match and compare objects and amounts. Count objects, actions and sounds. Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. Learning to use words such as 'first', 'then', after' to describe a pattern of events. Can continue and create ABAB patterns e.g. stick, leaf, stick, leaf.





			objects tell you how many there are in total.			Compare size, mass and capacity. Can use accurate shapes when building e.g. a triangle for a roof. Can notice an error in an ABAB pattern and correct it. Can talk about routes and locations, using words such as 'in front of' and 'behind' Comment on properties of shapes e.g. circle is round, squares are straight. Select, rotate and manipulate shapes in order to develop spatial reasoning skills.
						locations, using words such
						shapes e.g. circle is round,
Understanding the world	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Past and present	Talk about their family and home, recalling things that	Talk about their immediate family and their role in the	Can discuss their understanding of change	Share past family experiences.	Share and understand how they have grown and	Explore changes over time e.g. old buildings and new,
People, Culture and Communities	are not happening in the 'here and now' at school e.g.	family.	over time, e.g. "It is snowing now but it wasn't	Know about people who	changes.	life cycles, a seed growing.
The natural world	"I had toast for breakfast."	Can recognise simple differences between	snowing before."	help us and explore this concept through	Show an interest in different occupations.	Talk about members of their immediate family and
	Know about family celebrations.	themselves and others e.g. hair colour.	Begin to understand celebrations celebrated by others.	imaginative play/discussions.	Explore growing seeds and taking care of plants.	Name and describe people
	Learning to make	Shows an interest in		Develop positive attitudes about the differences		who are familiar to them.
	connections between the features of my family and other families e.g. "My	exploring how things work.	Talk about taking care of the world around us.	between people.	Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside by features such	Identify places that are special to me.
	daddy's got short hair."			Know simple animal life cycles.	as colour e.g., autumnal leaves, or size e.g., tall	Know that there are different
	Explore seasonal changes e.g. autumn leaves falling off				trees, big clouds.	countries in the world and can discuss differences experienced or seen in





	the trees and colder weather. Enjoy exploring natural world and materials using senses and looking for minibeasts.			Comment on the natural world around them when going on nature walks.	differences/changes between materials e.g. when making play dough or cooking.	chotos e.g. Spain is hot and has sand and England is cold. Developing positive attitudes about similarities and differences between themselves and people around them. Explore different forces. Learning to respect and care for the natural environment and living things. Describe their immediate environment using language inked to what they see such as small, spacious, tall, hidden, clean, dirty, dangerous, safe. Understands different parts of a life cycle, both plants and iving creatures e.g. a bean and a caterpillar.
Expressive art and design	Starting Pre-School	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Next Steps	Leaving Pre-School
Creating with materials Being imaginative and expressive	Will create simple structures, usually towers of blocks on top of one another. These simple structures may have a purpose, e.g. "It's my house." Joins different materials together. Makes marks with intent and meaning. Will explore paint/other materials with their senses,	Continues to build simpler structures, may experiment more with shape and space used. Structures should have a planned purpose. Make choices about which materials to use when creating. Acts out simple scenarios with small world toys. Begins to roleplay alongside others.	Develops use of other resources when constructing e.g. combining large bricks with small wooden bricks. Create closed shapes with continuous lines. Begins to roleplay more collaboratively with their peers, may suggest ideas to keep the play going. Can use other resources to represent something	Continues to develop use of other resources when constructing, organising their building materials in a more interesting way. Show an interest in colour mixing. Begin to include details on drawings. Begins to develop roleplay with a small group of children.	Creates more complex structures with blocks/other resources. Represent feelings, noises and movements through drawing. Continues to develop roleplay with a small group of children. Builds stories around small world characters. Creates own songs using musical accompaniments.	Learn how to mix colours to create new ones e.g. blue and yellow make green. Can talk about what they are creating and the process they are taking. Sing familiar nursery rhymes from memory. Show particular interest in playing imaginatively





Can fill in the blanks during I can show different enjoying smearing paint or even though they are not within the learning emotions in my pictures, shaving foam, for example. songs and perform them similar e.g. using shells environment. like happiness, sadness, with greater independence. and buttons as fear etc. Constructs imaginative Listen to and show interest in ingredients/food. small worlds with a range music, joining in with simple What does this look like? Follow adult of resources e.g. using and repetitive rhymes and bricks and animals to signals/instructions when songs. Acting out simple scenarios make a zoo. playing instruments e.g. with small world toys may play and stop, loud and Roleplays in a simpler include e.g. a dinosaur quiet. Focusing on more Takes on a role within eating, a doll house person manner. than one thing at a time. their play. sleeping in bed. Interacts with roleplay Uses items in the Begins to show a greater resources appropriately. Can environment to represent interest in roleplaying with use some resources in an other objects, e.g. buttons small world characters. abstract way, e.g. holding a for money. block to their ear and pretending it's a phone. Enjoys playing with simple small world toys e.g. train tracks, cars and dinosaurs. May roleplay alone. What does this look like? Roleplaying in a simple manner may include mixing food in a bowl or putting a baby to sleep. Appropriate interaction with roleplay resources may include using the phone to talk, a cup for drinking tea and a spoon for mixing.