

# A guide to the Early Years Curriculum at...



Our Early Years curriculum is planned through termly topics that focus on the seven areas of learning. Children learn through adult-led and independent activities that enable them to learn new skills and concepts and then to apply their understanding through independent play based activities.

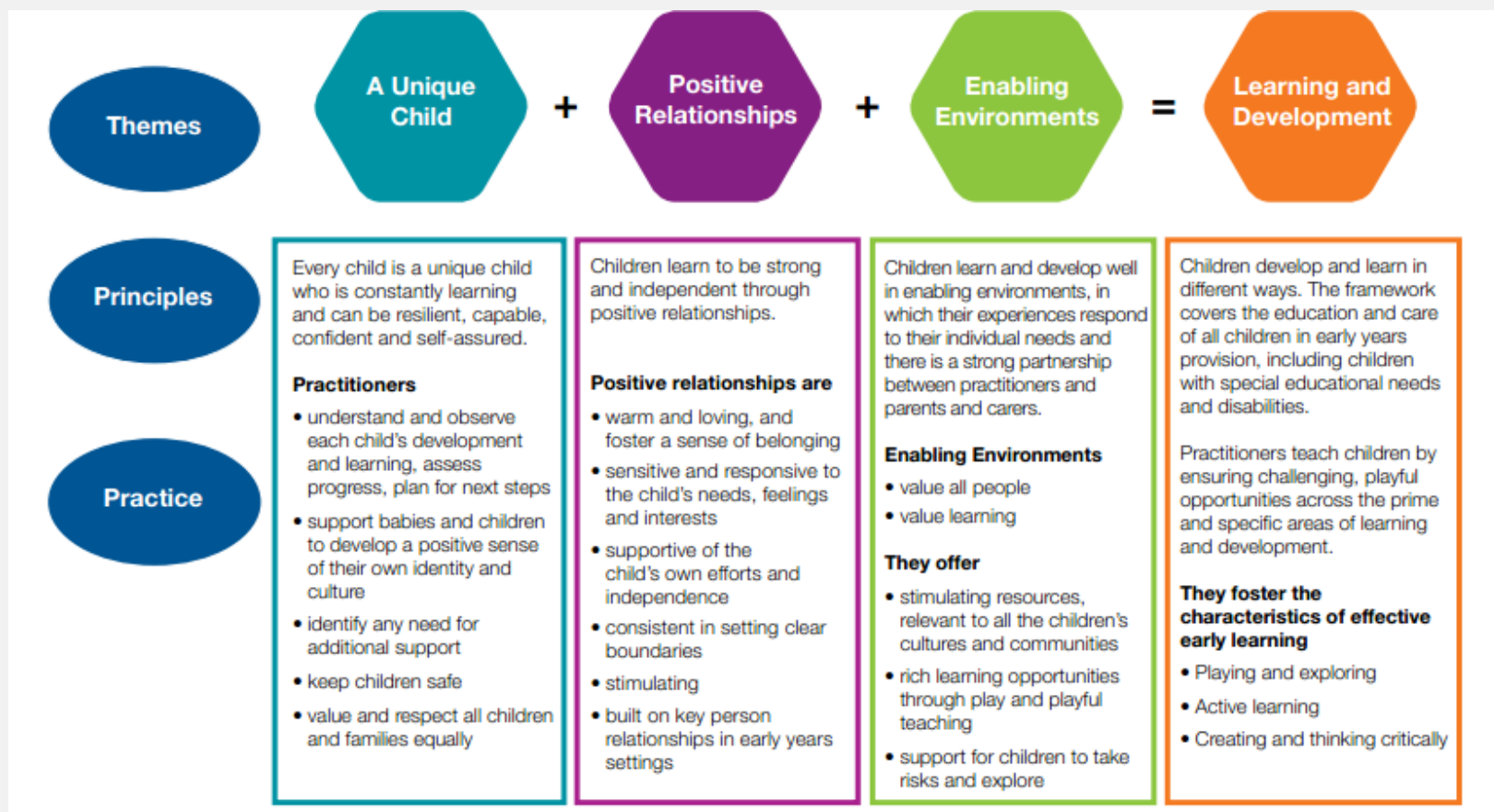
Throughout the day, children will work in large and small groups. For example, story time, phonics sessions, mathematic sessions, PE and many more. Some activities may take place on a 1:1 such as reading and writing.

Children are given plenty of time throughout the day to explore their own interests and gather their own resources to carry out self-chosen activities.

Children are encouraged to be active and independent of their own learning. Outdoor sessions enable the children to develop their gross motor skills while exploring and learning outside.

Our highly experienced staff monitor and track children's progress to ensure that children have a deep rooted understanding and know when the children are ready for the next steps of learning.

# Overarching Principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum



[www.early-education.org.uk](http://www.early-education.org.uk)



**This area of learning relates to how your child:**

Enjoys messy activities, exploring what happens,

Pretends and role plays things they have seen and experienced,

Participates in musical and dance activities

Talks about models they have made and the reasons behind different parts of the model.



**Activities at Home**



Let your child help you when you are tidying-up

Be prepared for your child to become Mr, Miss or Mrs in a game of teachers. Or maybe you'll become a passenger on your child's train, bus or aeroplane.

Make some shakers using pots and some dried pasta or lentils

Use your boxes to make a model—you'll be surprised what your child will turn it in to!

Keep your old clothes, shoes, hats, gloves to make an exciting box of dressing up clothes.

**See the picture sheet for more ideas!**



## Seven Key Features of Effective Practice

1. The best for every child
2. High-quality care
3. The curriculum: what we want children to learn
4. Pedagogy: helping children to learn
5. Assessment: checking what children have learnt
6. Self-regulation and executive function
7. Partnership with parents





# The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **playing and exploring**—children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- **active learning**—children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.
- **creative and thinking critically**—children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Development Matters 2020



**This area of learning relates to how your child:**

Explores the world around them,

Uses computers, phones, calculators, MP3s, stereos, TVs and other electrical equipment,

Enjoys and participates in festivals relating to their own and other cultures.



**Activities at Home**



Talk to your child about your family, culture, religion, where you live

Talk about what you see, hear, smell, taste and touch

Ask your child what buttons they think you should press and why when using electrical equipment

Look at similarities and differences when walking or on the bus

**See the picture sheet for more ideas!**



## The Areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning are important and inter-connected.

These are the **prime** areas that underpin everything in the early years:

1. **Communication and Language**- listening, attention and understanding, speaking.
2. **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - self-regulation, managing self, building relationships.
3. **Physical Development** - gross motor skills, fine motor skills.

These are the **specific** areas that help children to strengthen and apply the prime areas:

4. **Literacy** - comprehension, word reading, writing.
5. **Mathematics** — number, numerical patterns.
6. **Understanding the World** — past and present, people, culture and communities, the natural world.
7. **Expressive Arts and Design** — creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive.







**This area of learning relates to how your child:**

Solves problems using their own ideas and by working with others,

Singing number rhymes and counting (in 1's, 2's and 5's),

Exploring patterns and shapes.



## Activities at Home



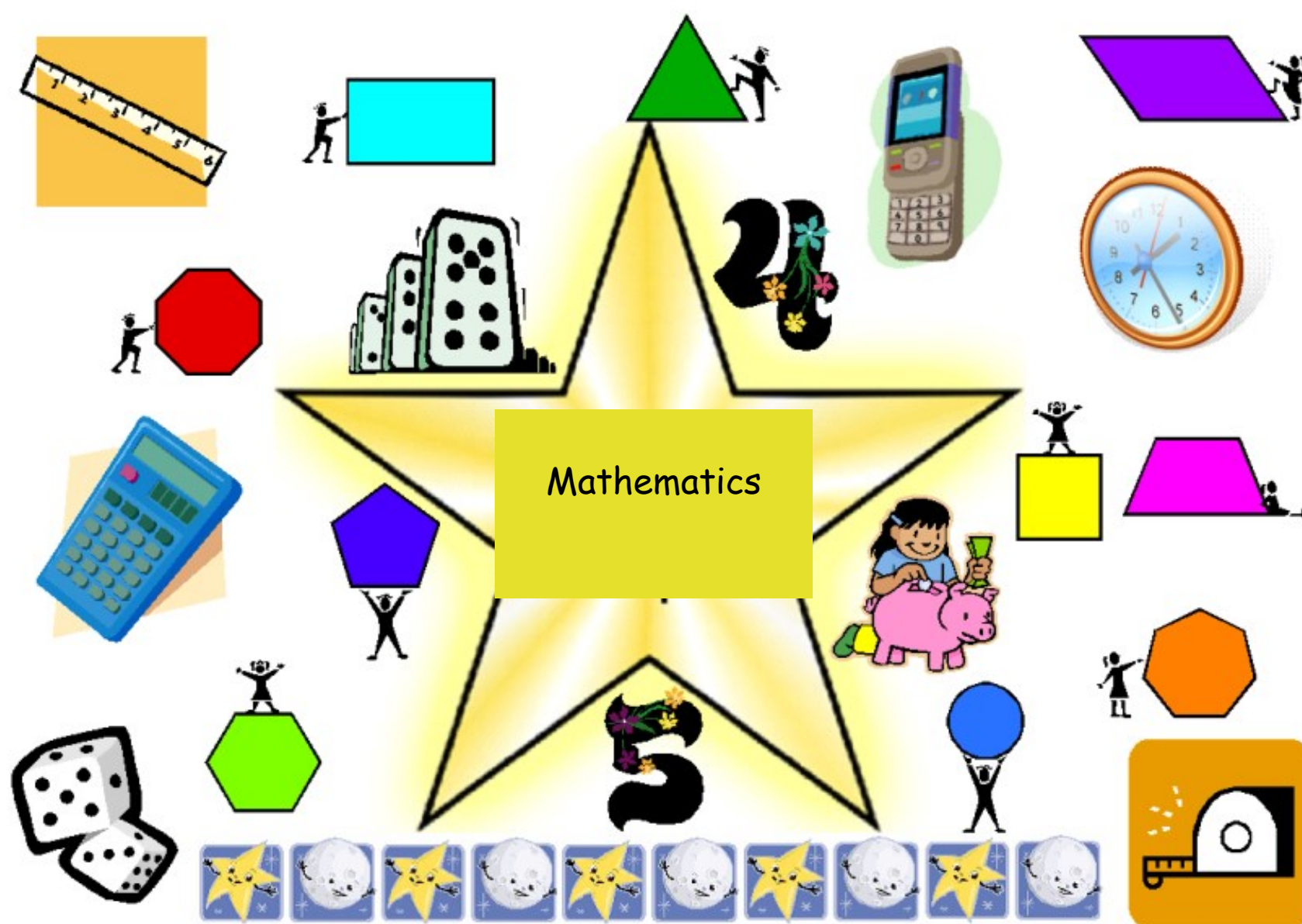
Play board games like snakes and ladders to practise counting

Make a game out of sock sorting after doing the washing. Talk about the patterns you see.

Ask your child when you have a problem e.g. I only have 2 apples but there are 4 of us. What shall we do?

Sing some number rhymes e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive

See the picture sheet for more ideas!



**This area of learning relates to how your child:**

Interacts with others,

Deals with their emotions,

Looks after their personal hygiene,

Views their behaviour and it's consequences.



## Activities at Home



Play games to encourage sharing and turn taking

Talk about how things make both you and your child feel

Encourage your child to wash their hands after going to the toilet

Encourage your child to have a go at dressing themselves

When your child does something they shouldn't have, encourage to child to think about what they did and why it was wrong

See the picture sheet for more ideas!





**This area of learning relates to how your child:**

Talks and listens to others,

Explores books,

Makes up stories and retells them,

Learns phonemes to enable them to read by decoding texts.



## Activities at Home



Read stories

Talk about the story—what was your favourite, least favourite part and why

Act out the story for others in your family to watch

Chat, talk, speak to, whisper, sing with your child

Come to our phonics for parents and carers session so you can practise phonics with your child.

See the picture sheet for more ideas!



