

## EYFS Overview – Specific areas of study

We deliver four additional specific areas of learning, which provide important contexts for children's learning, these are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These specific areas will be part of a child's curriculum in our early years classes. On most occasions, we work on these areas, in a way that promotes and enhances learning in one or more of the prime areas for learning at the same time.

### Literacy

This area of the curriculum is broken down into the following sub areas:

- Reading
- Writing

Teaching and learning within Literacy has a multisensory core focus at Ravenswood School. We bring our stories, rhymes and songs to life using real objects and musical instruments to support children's understanding and enjoyment of stories, as well as promoting the use and stimulation of the five senses. We provide daily opportunities to explore mark-making in diverse ways, using sensory materials such as rice, shaving foam, cornflour, and sand to build confidence and skills. For children who are ready to access more structured literacy activities, small group and individual support allow us to build on individual interests and skills. We use a differentiated phonics programme, which begins by focusing on developing listening skills and the ability to differentiate between environmental sounds. Children who are ready will progress on to learning about letters and sounds using a programme consistent across the school.

Some targeted pupils can participate in 1:1 work for phonics and literacy, as appropriate. Emergent writing is encouraged throughout the curriculum and all children have their own specific next steps in reading and writing.



## **Mathematics**

This area of the curriculum is broken down into the following sub areas:

- Number
- Numerical Patterns
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In the Early Years, Maths is taught in a very practical way, providing opportunities for children to understand the way numbers and counting work through real, hands-on experiences. The children learn an awareness of number through rhymes, sorting, counting, and organising and cooking. We incorporate elements of maths into many of our daily routines; for example, counting how many children and adults are here, using mathematical language such as more/fewer and big/small, at snack time and lunch time. Our whole class and group specific maths sessions promote enjoyment and understanding for all children and often have a strong sensory component. We also use the TEACCH strategy to ensure progression of skills are embedded into a child's long-term memory.



## **Expressive Arts and Design**

This area of the curriculum is broken down into the following sub areas:

- Exploring and Using Media and Materials
- Being Imaginative

This area of learning includes art, design, including cooking, music, dance and role play. We encourage children to express themselves and explore many ways of moving, exploring sensory materials, playing instruments, and using our voices. We provide lots of opportunities for children to express preferences and choose and use materials and resources in an open-ended way, helping them to make choices and to have confidence in beginning to represent their own ideas and feelings. We support pupils to be curious and to explore resources in diverse ways, sensitively introducing them to a range of different textures and materials. We play alongside children, modelling using imagination in role play, small world play, with puppets and when acting out our sensory stories. Children also have weekly sessions with our specialised creative arts teacher who has a clear understanding of developing these skills within the early years of education.



### **Understanding the World**

This area of the curriculum is broken down into the following sub areas:

- Past and Present
- Culture and Communities
- The Natural World
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This area of the early years curriculum involves helping children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observing and finding out about people, animals, places, technology and the environment. Much of this learning focuses on supporting children to understand and use all of their senses to explore. We provide plenty of opportunities for real personal experiences, visiting the park and shops to explore local spaces, connecting with the natural world through weekly visits to our 'Pond place' area, and meeting members of the local community such as police and firefighters. We celebrate children's news from home, as well as celebrating birthdays, learning about other cultures and talking about changes through looking at baby photos and exploring role play around babies.

