



Our Curriculum- Information for Parents

At Meadow View Nursery we have an observation cycle which we feed into our curriculum of what we want the children to learn. We follow the Early Years Statutory framework which is also known as the EYFS and the non-statutory guidance Development Matters.

Understanding EYFS & Development Matters

What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that sets the standards for how we support your child's learning, development, and care from birth to 5 years old. To ensure that all children learn through play, exploration, and positive relationships in a safe and nurturing environment.

There are 7 areas of learning which support what your child learns, these come under the prime or specific areas.

Prime areas

- Communication and language
- Physical
- Personal social and emotional development

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Please note: For children 2 years and under, our main focus is to observe the prime areas of learning, this needs to be embedded for them to progress into the specific areas. Your child will naturally have the opportunity to cover the specific areas however it is not the main focus of observations.

What is 'Development Matters'?

Development Matters is a non-statutory guidance that helps practitioners understand how children typically grow and develop and how we can support them. It outlines stages of learning across the Prime and Specific areas.

Why do we observe your child?

Observation is a key part of how we support your child. By watching and listening carefully, we can:

- Understand your child's interests and strengths

- Identify what they can do and what they are learning next
- Plan activities that support their individual development
- Ensure they are making good progress
- Highlights if more support is needed

How do we observe?

Observations happen naturally during play and daily activities. Staff may:

- Take brief notes
- Capture photos (where permission is given)
- Record significant achievements or WOW moments
- Build up the practitioner knowledge by spending quality time with your child getting to know them as an individual.

These observations are used to build a picture of your child's development over time.

How does this benefit your child?

By observing and assessing your child using the EYFS and development matters it

- Provides your child with tailored learning experiences
- Support any areas where your child may need extra help
- Celebrate their achievements
- Prepare them for the next stage of their learning journey
- Helps them build a relationship with all the staff at Meadow View Nursery.

How we assess development

At Meadow View Nursery, we assess children in three key ways to ensure we understand their development and support their learning effectively:

- **6-week settling-in period (Baseline Assessment)**

During your child's first 6 weeks, we observe, interact, and gather information from parents/carers to build a clear picture of what your child already knows and can do. Your child's key person will then arrange a discussion with you to share this important first step, talk through their early observations, and welcome any feedback you may have.

- **Ongoing Observations and Observational Checkpoints**

We regularly observe your child during play and everyday activities. Not everything is written down, as getting to know your child well is a really important part of how their key person supports them.

Written observations help us track progress, identify next steps, and plan activities to support your child's development. When your child moves between rooms or floors, their key person will complete an observational checkpoint to show what they know and what they are working towards next. Your child's key person will be happy to talk this through with you at any time and really welcomes your feedback too.

Progress Check at Age 2

When your child is around 2 years old, we complete a formal 2-year progress check. This focuses on key areas such as communication and language, physical development, and personal, social and emotional development, to ensure your child is developing as expected.

We invite you to a meeting to discuss your child's development, celebrate their progress, and talk about how we can continue to support them together. This information then forms part of your child's 2-year check.

We also encourage families to share this report with their health visitor during the 2–2.5-year check, and to pass on any feedback from the health visitor to your child's key person. Working in partnership with parents and other professionals helps us to best support your child's development.

Example of the assessment areas and what these mean

Progressing well – Your child is developing well in this area and is making steady progress. They are building confidence and skills and may sometimes need a little support, but are generally working within age-related expectations.	Give more support- Your child may benefit from extra opportunities to revisit this area. With more practice and gentle support from adults, they will build confidence and become more independent in their learning.
	Needs additional support- Your child needs some extra help in this area to support their learning and development. We will put targeted support in place and, where helpful, may work with other professionals to make sure they get the right support to help them make progress.

Working in Partnership with You

We value your input as parents and carers. You know your child best, and we encourage you to:

- Share achievements from home
- Complete the 'all about me' form
- Talk to staff about your child's interests
- Ask questions about their development
- Arrange a parent meeting at any point to discuss your child's progress or share any development concerns.

The curriculum is part of our observation cycle which starts by

- Us knowing your child
- Having a continuous provision of familiar activities for your child to come to nursery feeling comfortable ready to play and explore
- The activities are led by your child's interest
- Activities are then planned and these are then run across the whole week ensuring that your child has the opportunity to embed their learning.
- Observations are taken and gathered, a next step will be created for your child to form the next learning experience /activity/play area to able your child to grow in their development.