

OUR ETHOS

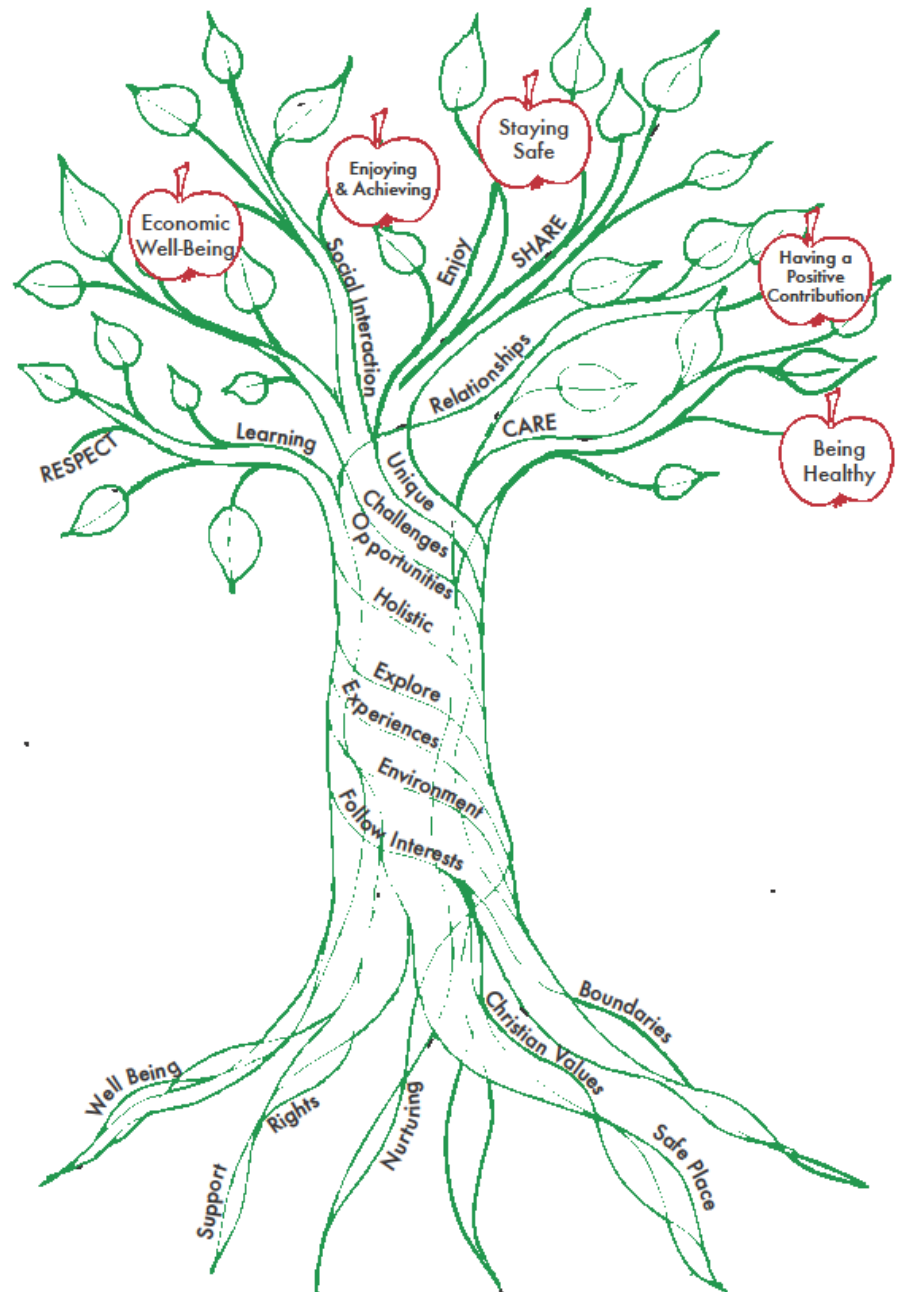
Noah's Ark is a Christian pre-school that welcomes, values and respects the uniqueness of each child and family.

We believe that childhood is a time for children to be, to explore and make meaning of their world. A sense of trust, security and belonging helps them to build positive relationships as well as respect for themselves and others.

We believe that when children are allowed to follow their own interests and motivations and take age appropriate risks within a safe, warm, caring and supportive learning environment, they will develop an eagerness to learn and acquire the skills needed for formal learning to take place later on.

We believe that working closely in partnership with parents will help each child thrive, enjoy and achieve.

We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experiences and environment we provide.



OUR CURRICULUM

Based on EYFS Educational programmes, our curriculum shows what we intend children to learn, how we help them to learn and what their outcomes are.

(Our curriculum is shown in the diagrams after each of the educational programmes)

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| Intent | <p>We understand that every child is unique, of varying ages and with different starting points and cultural capital. Our curriculum explores the experiences we would like children to have access to; alongside the skills & knowledge, dispositions & attitudes we intend children to acquire.</p> <p>At Noah's Ark we encourage our children to explore and be curious, to develop a sense of awe and wonder, to be independent, to begin to self-regulate and to become resilient learners and responsible citizens. Children will be learning skills, building on their funds of knowledge and cultural capital, demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.</p> <p>Children will mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are considered to be most essential for a child's healthy development and future learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and language • Physical development • Personal, social and emotional development <p>As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy • Mathematics • Understanding the world • Expressive arts and design <p>Woven throughout all of these areas are the Characteristics of Effective Teaching & Learning which enable each unique child to reach out and to relate to the people and things around them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing and exploring • Active learning • Creating and thinking critically |
| Implementation | <p>We follow children's interests & schema and plan for their next steps "in the moment". The 7 areas of learning and development are used to underpin a child's learning, however, unlike more formal settings, we provide open ended, real objects and curious resources, provocations and invitations to play and learn. A calm, homely environment promotes well-being and involvement and is seen as "the third teacher". It consists of our continuous provision, available at all times, and enhancements to meet the needs or interests of the individual learners or groups of children.</p> <p>We have knowledgeable and experienced educators who can listen and respond to children's needs and fascinations, who are trained to spot those "teachable moments" that enable them to then support and extend children's learning, teachers who ensure that the provocations and</p> |

Noah's Ark Pre-school Curriculum & Assessment - EYFS statutory framework March 2021

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| | challenges provided enable the children to learn at their own pace. Our partnerships with parents and carers are fundamental in forming a complete picture of the child, enabling us to support their well-being and their unique learning journey. |
| Impact | <p>We continually assess learning “in the moment”, acting on children’s next steps as they occur, but an assessment of learning is recorded more formally three times a year and shared with parents.</p> <p>Assessment, both formative and summative, allow us to track children’s development and progress. It ensures that what we provide in the environment and how we teach children is enabling them to learn and develop. We also use our assessments to highlight children who may need extra support or specialist intervention.</p> |

EYFS Statutory Framework 2021

The areas of learning and development

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

Educational Programmes

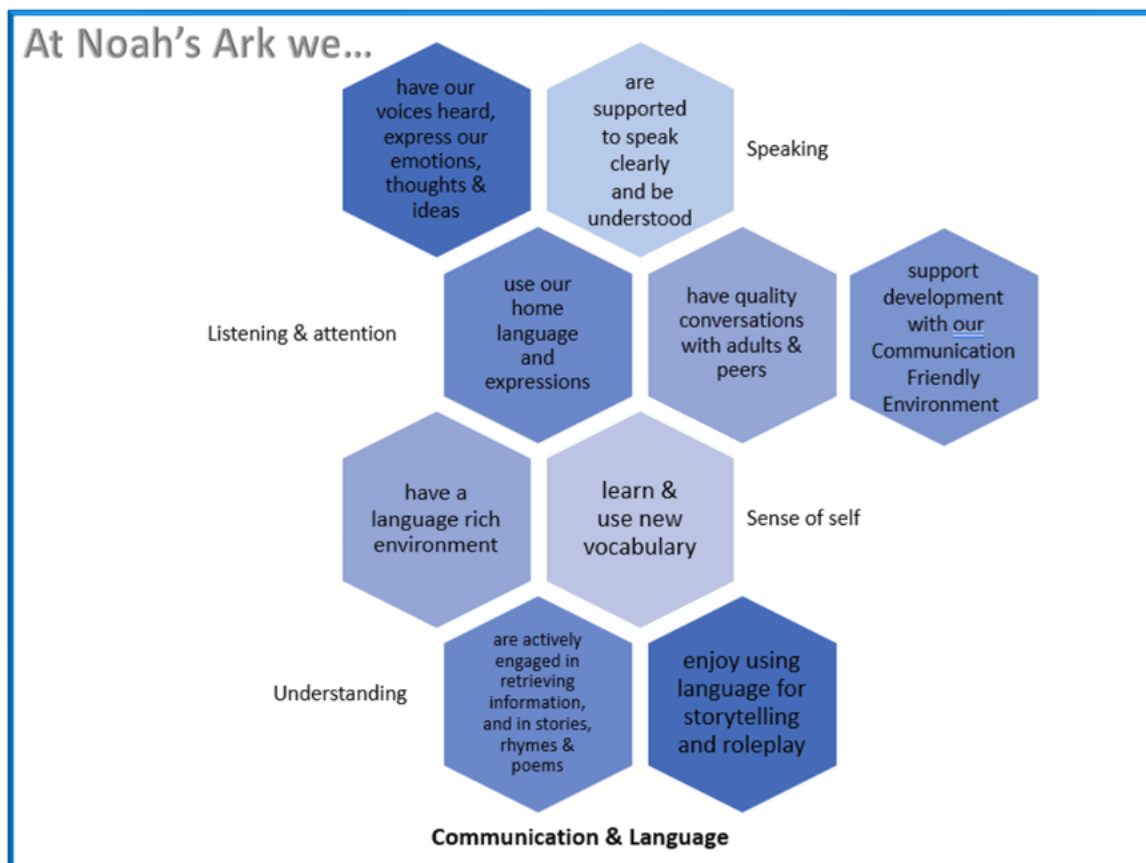
Educational programmes must involve activities and experiences for children, as set out under each of the areas of learning.

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, storytelling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

ELG: Listening, Attention and Understanding

ELG: Speaking



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

ELG: Self-Regulation

ELG: Managing Self

ELG: Building Relationships

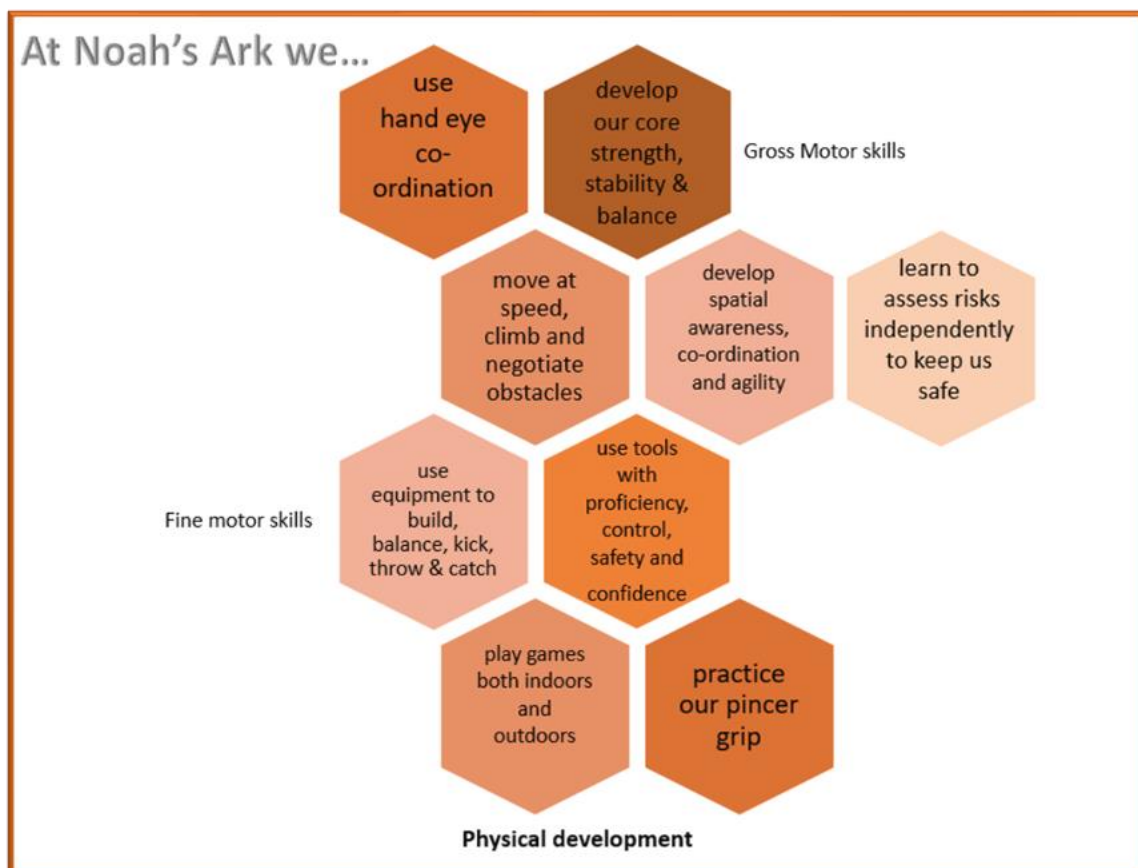


Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

ELG: Gross Motor Skills

ELG: Fine Motor Skills



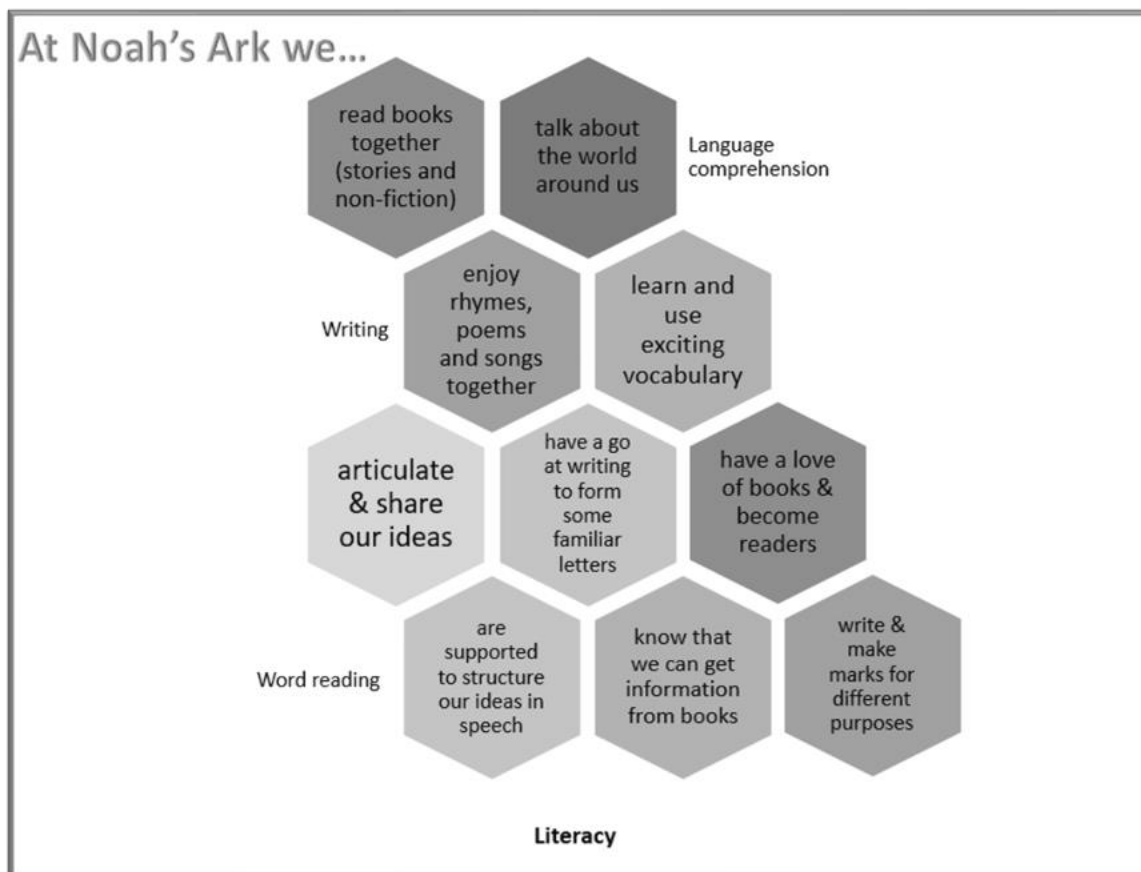
Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. *Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words.* Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

ELG: Comprehension

ELG: Word Reading

ELG: Writing

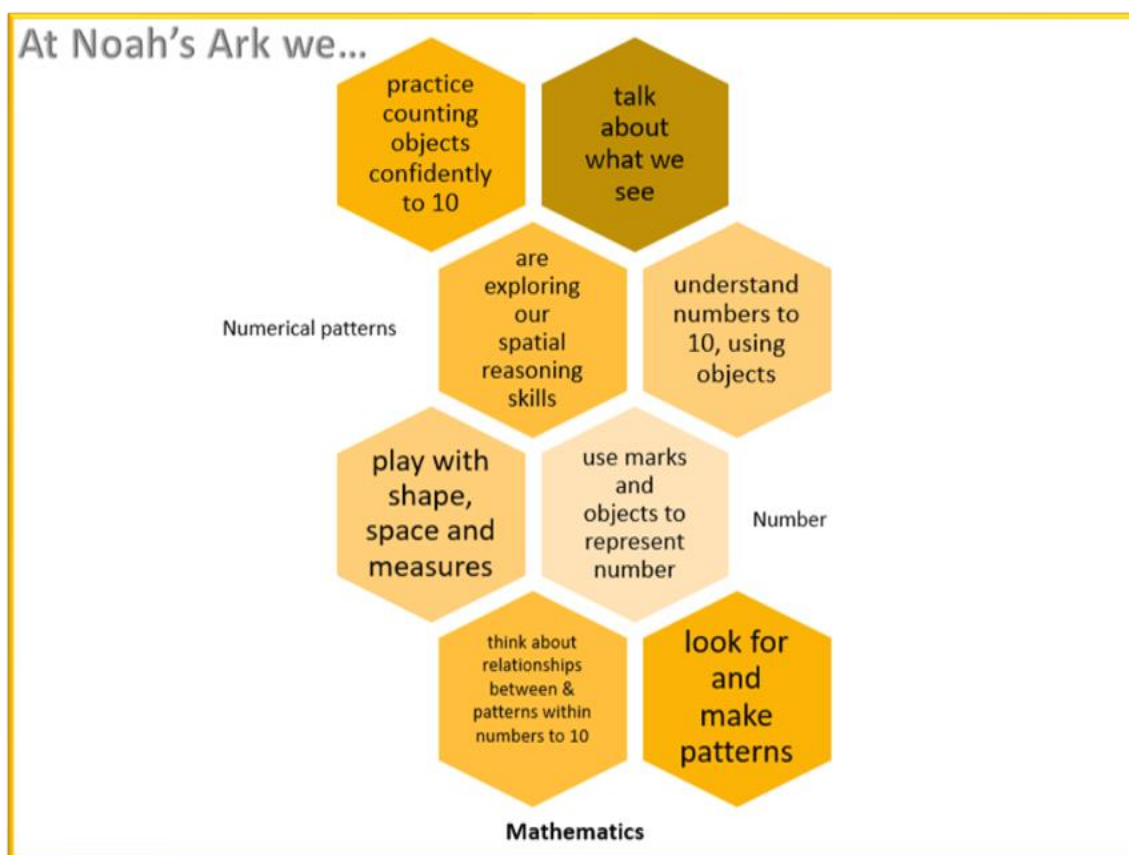


Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

ELG: Number

ELG: Numerical Patterns



Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

ELG: Past and Present

ELG: People, Culture and Communities

ELG: The Natural World



Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.

ELG: Creating with Materials

ELG: Being Imaginative and Expressive

