



Nursery & Reception Curriculum Guide

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THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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A young child is riding a white and red balance bike on a paved path in a park. The child is wearing a red helmet, a high-visibility yellow and orange vest over a green shirt, and blue sneakers. The background shows a grassy area and colorful playground equipment. A teal text box is overlaid on the image.

The British International School Bratislava is the only school in Bratislava to produce consistently outstanding academic results and a unique personal enrichment programme with the highest Quality Learning delivered on a Global Campus.

Welcome to the Nursery & Reception Curriculum Guide.

In this booklet you will read about the curriculum we provide for children between the ages of 2-5. Nursery age children, from the ages of 2 to 4, are based in our Dolinskeho Nursery. Children turning 5 in the academic year are in one of our Reception classes based at our new Early Years Centre at Peknikova.

The pictures in this guide will give you a sense of the learning taking place but it is only as you step through the door that you will hear songs, music, chattering and laughter that fill our days.

Enrolling your child into their first school is a big step, and as parents you have to make sure it is the right place. At BISB we provide a welcoming, caring environment which promotes exploration, cooperation, creativity and friendship. We communicate with parents to understand the needs of each child before they start, to ensure they settle in to their new environment quickly and easily.

Our teaching and learning is based on a curriculum framework implemented through planned purposeful play activities. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and to relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play that is guided by adults. Our skilled practitioners respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development in a creative and positive way. They assess the balance needed between activities led by children and those guided by adults. Every play experience acts as a building block for learning.

Our children come from all over the world and use English to communicate together and with their teachers. It is wonderful to see how quickly children who arrive with little or no English develop their understanding when they are immersed in our language-rich environment. It is a privilege to work in the Early Years Foundation Stage; we are dedicated to nurture all the children in our care and capture their excitement in learning. BISB is a happy place to be, where learning is fun!



Our Approach

Our children benefit from a friendly, caring, child-centred start at our school. We build strong relationships with the children in our care so we can get to know each individual to ensure we can meet their needs. We know that when children are happy they will learn more. Right from the first day our children discover that learning is fun. Our facilities allow for a wide range of physical and creative play, they encourage exploration and self discovery. Your child will find learning is irresistible!

Children learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking. In our setting, therefore, children are provided with many and varied purposeful play opportunities, both indoors and in our outdoor learning environment, too. Children have the opportunity to follow their own interests, initiate activities and be self-directed with the support of their teachers. Teachers will interact to extend the children's thinking and will also provide focus activities to facilitate learning of core skills.

Through this approach, our children will become more independent, being able to show initiative and have the confidence to take risks, knowing that there is not always a right or wrong way. Play-based learning focuses on the process not the product and is enhanced by skilled interactions from the adults in the class. It is the learning that is taking place that is the all important factor.



Nursery

Nursery provides an exciting and varied environment for children who are aged between 2 and 4 years of age on entry. At BISB Nursery, we provide a caring environment, where a child's first experiences of separation from parents are positive and constructive, whilst laying the foundations of early learning skills. Topics covered at this age will depend on the interests of the children and will have a range of activities planned to specific learning outcomes. Some of the themes might include: Nursery Rhymes, Fairy Tales, Bears, Creatures, Who Am I? and My World. In addition, Nursery children will follow music and movement programmes as another fun way to promote learning. This provides a creative context in which to develop 'school ready' skills, including pre-reading skills and early maths.



Reception

Reception welcomes children who are aged 4 and 5 years of age. In the Reception classes, children continue to learn through purposeful play. They learn to read simple sentences and irregular words. They use phonic skills to decode words when reading and build words for writing. Mathematical skills develop as children learn to solve simple number problems using addition and subtraction. As in Nursery, Topics are planned for and developed according to the interests of the children. Some of the themes may include Dinosaurs, Mini-Beasts, Castles, Treasure, Superheroes and Traditional Stories. Reception also follows the next level of the music and movement programme.



Our Staff

Our teachers and assistants are highly experienced Early Years specialists who are passionate about what they do. Excellent support is given to families whose children are coming into an English setting for the first time. You will be amazed at how our children absorb the language and how quickly they learn to communicate in English.

Our Curriculum

Our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, for Nursery, is based on the UK Foundation Stage Curriculum where the children's learning is carefully planned within seven areas of learning. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three prime areas are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.



Practitioners also provide for learning in four specific areas through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

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

Under the 7 areas of learning, we provide activities and experiences for children as follows:

- **Communication and language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are also helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.
- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.
- **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.
- **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.



We recognise that every child has unique skills and attributes, every child has different interests and motivations and each child will learn at a different rate. We aim to nurture each individual and capture their natural curiosity, and provide them with a curriculum that challenges and excites.

Assessment in Early Years

As your child learns and develops practitioners take photos and record observations, this forms part of their on-going assessment record and e-portfolio. This assessment is based on staff observations and evidence gathered over a period of time. All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning of development, and the characteristics of their learning (how they learn). This information is used to help us plan the 'next steps' of learning for each individual and ensure that all our children get a broad range of learning opportunities.

Every half term, teachers update your child's assessment record and send you a copy of their e-portfolio, this gives you an up-to-date picture of how your child is progressing 6 times a year, this is instead of a more traditional written academic report.

Physical Education

We have our own indoor soft play room where children can develop their physical skills in a safe and imaginative environment. Children are encouraged to build their own pathways wriggle through tunnels, climb bridges, balance on soft blocks and work in a cooperative manner with the other children. PE lessons can also take place in the gym or outside, when more space is needed.

Children are given the option to go swimming each week, we follow a developmental swimming program that encourages confidence in the water through the teaching of skills and the playing of games.

Children benefit from specialist teachers for all PE activities. This way we can ensure that your child gets the very best opportunities to excel.



Music

Music lessons provided by music specialists, enhance our children's listening skills, they encourage participation, develop language through songs and help children recognise patterns in music. We plan for performances throughout the year to help give our children confidence in front of an audience.

Forest School

Our designated 'Forest School' sessions encourage children to enjoy the world around them. It enables children to appreciate the outdoors and develops concentration, cooperation and consideration for the environment.

Rockets Club

We provide an after school care facility for children in Nursery and Reception from 15:00 -17:00 (16:00 on Fridays). During this time, children will have a number of activities on offer such as : soft play, stories, art and craft activities.

Enrichment Activities

We also organize an after-school enrichment program which provides 30-40 minute specialist activities such as football and dancing. Some of these activities will be provided by external organisations and paid for by parents as an optional extra.





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