

A Helping Hand

EYFS



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF BEIJING, SHUNYI
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

*Early Years
Foundation Stage*
EYFS
Pre-Nursery (Teddies)
Nursery
and Reception

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Introduction

Many parents approach us with wonderful questions, requesting ideas about how they can support their children at home with their learning. We really value this home/school partnership.

This booklet will give you a better understanding of some of the approaches we use in the Early Years Foundation Stage at The British School of Beijing,

Shunyi, and ideas about ways that you can support your child at home through building on what they are learning at school.

Should you have any questions regarding your child's development or our curriculum, please do not hesitate to come in and talk it through with your child's class teachers.

Thank you. We hope you find this useful.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Team

“ Children learn in a variety of ways: watching each other, talking, asking questions, listening, exploring and investigating. ”



Information for parents and carers

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum.

The curriculum is based around four themes to ensure your child achieves to the best of their ability.

A Unique Child

- every child is a competent learner from birth and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

- children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and carers.

Enabling Environments

- the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending a child's development and learning.

Learning and Developing

- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of learning and development are equally important.

These themes are used to underpin the learning and development that your child will take part in during their time in the EYFS and ensure all children achieve to the best of their ability in a unique and meaningful way.

Play is the foundation of development and learning for young children and your child will continue to take part in many indoor and outdoor play experiences that will help them to learn and have fun!

The EYFS curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and development;

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

This does not mean that all of the children's learning is divided up into areas. In one activity they can be developing knowledge, understanding and new skills across several areas of learning at once.

It is fundamental that children develop the required skills in each area of learning to allow them to access the National Curriculum in KS1.



The Seven Areas of Learning and Development and how you can help

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning helps children to feel good about themselves and others, so they are able to develop positive relationships. It supports them to become independent, excited and motivated learners.

- Encourage your child to say please and thank you.
- Encourage your child to take their own coat on and off. You can help by buying clothes and shoes with simple fastenings such as zips or velcro.
- When playing with your child, support them in sharing toys.
- Allow them to choose some toys themselves and reflect on opinions about these toys, for example, 'This is my favourite doll or car'.
- Ensure that your child is able to go to the toilet unaided and wash their hands.
- Try to support your child in taking turns with others.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.

2. Communication and Language

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.

- To increase vocabulary and identify sounds, play word games such as 'I spy'.
- Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of the letter and the sounds that they make.
- Encourage your child to sing and say songs and rhymes and tell you their own stories.
- Ask your child about words that rhyme, such as 'house' and 'mouse'.
- Take time to listen to them, talk about things they have done and answer their questions.
- Encourage your child to draw and write. Provide them with a table, crayons and pencils.

3. Physical Development

Making progress in physical development gives children confidence and enables them to feel the benefits of being healthy and active. Large scale play is also linked to the language centre in the brain. Further, it helps to develop core strength which will develop your child's handwriting! Your child will participate in structured PE, dance and swimming sessions;

improving their skills of co-ordination, control and movement. There will be many opportunities for your child to develop fine motor skills such as using scissors, glue, paintbrushes and pencils.

- Activities such as building, drawing, threading beads.
- Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment.
- Allow your child to use scissors and develop

their skills.

- Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of travelling.
- Play games such as 'follow the leader' and change actions to develop motor skills and coordination.
- Discuss changes to their bodies after exercise such as their heart beating faster, feeling hot and so on.

- Take your child to indoor and outdoor play areas and encourage them to climb, swing and explore.
- Take your child to the swimming pool and splash and play with them in the water.

4. Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

- To increase vocabulary and identify sounds, play word games such as 'I spy'.
- Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of the letter and the sounds that they make.
- Encourage your child to sing and say songs and rhymes and tell you their own stories.
- Ask your child about words that rhyme, such as 'house' and 'mouse'.
- Take time to listen to them, talk about things they have done and answer their questions.
- Encourage your child to draw and write. Provide them with a table, crayons and pencils.
- Read stories with numbers in them, such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.
- Use mathematical language like 'add', 'take away' and use the names of numbers.
- Count using your fingers.
- Point to and say numbers around their environment.
- Encourage children to identify shapes around them; do a circle hunt or go square spotting for example.
- Apply mathematics to real life by naming shapes, counting

money and talking about the amount of objects there are and so on.

- Compare things which are heavy and light, long and short.
- Cook and bake with your child. Encourage them to count spoonfuls, measure liquids and weigh ingredients.
- Talk for writing

One of the most important ways to help your child to write... is to talk!

Tell your children lots of stories. This can help children to shape their own stories and have something to write about.

No one can write down anything that they cannot say. Children need to practise saying and hearing whole sentences so that they become used to hearing the flow and sound of whole units of meaning.



5. Mathematics

This area of learning includes developing mathematical understanding through stories, songs, games, everyday activities and imaginative play. This ensures that children enjoy experimenting and become confident and curious about numbers, shapes, patterns and measures and are able to solve simple, everyday problems.

- Practise counting groups of objects in pictures and stories; pose questions such as how many altogether? Which number is one more?
- Count out loud with your child saying the names of numbers clearly. Counting anything from cars to cups.
- Show numbers to your child when you see them in the environment.
- Sing songs or rhymes with numbers in them such as '10 In The Bed', '5 Little Ducks', '10 Fat Sausages' and so on.

6. Understanding the World

In this area of learning children develop knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. This is the foundation for later work in history, geography, science, design and technology and ICT.

- Talk about places they go and things they see.
- Talk to your child about special times; birthdays, special days and other key events in their lives and the lives of others they know.
- Encourage them to explore their surroundings, particularly in the outdoor area.
- Allow your child to observe animals and describe them.
- Allow them to use simple tools such as a small hand trowel or a potato masher.
- Ask them to engage in everyday activities such as gardening, cooking and washing up.

- Encourage them to feel different textured objects and describe them as rough, smooth or soft and so on.
- Again, baking is a wonderful way for children to explore materials and learn about how they change when mixed or heated.

7. EAD - Expressive Arts and Design

This area of learning includes art, music, dance, drama and imaginative play opportunities for children to try new experiences and express themselves in a variety of ways. Creativity is an important part of successful learning; it enables children to make connections between experiences, solve problems and be inventive.

- Allow your child to listen to and sing songs and rhymes. Perhaps consider having a CD of songs in your car for journeys.
- Engage in role play with your child such as shops, families, spaceships and so on.
- Encourage your child to explore different media; to use paint, pencils, and crayons.
- Encourage cutting and sticking activities with scissors and glue.
- Dance to songs and make up actions to complement, such as 'The Wheels on the Bus'.



Helping your child with reading

The power of reading

Creating a love of reading in children is one of the most powerful ways of improving academic standards in school.

Reading at home

Reading is taught and practised in school. Home is also a great place to practise in a more informal and relaxed atmosphere.

To help your child at home;

- Make reading visible; have books available in your home.
- Share books everyday.
- Talk about books.
- Sit and listen – do not do chores around the reader and turn the television off.
- Respect choices – your child is much more likely to become a better reader if they are interested in what they are reading. Reading comics and special interest magazines should be encouraged.

Read to your child

Introduce your child to different types of books: classic fiction, chapter books, short stories, joke books, comics, poetry, non-fiction and so on. Read them the book that was your favourite when you were a child.

- Read slowly with expression. Try to use different and funny voices for the characters.
- Follow the words and read the story using the pictures to help understanding.
- Talk about what is happening and what might happen next.

Please refer to our Phonics: A Helping Hand booklet for strategies to support reading at home.

Understanding

The only way to judge how much your child understands is to talk about the book and ask questions that make them think.

Here are some questions you can ask your child.

- What do you think this story or book will be about?
- I wonder what will happen next. What do you think?
- Does this remind you of anything?
- A place that you have been to or a feeling?
- What is happening here?
- How do you think this character feels?
- What do you think he or she should do?
- What would you do?
- Why do you think the character did or said that?
- Where might we find information about...?
- What do you already know about...?
- Does this remind you of any other stories that you have read?
- What were the main events of the story?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?



Useful Apps and Websites

Below are a number of websites which you may find useful to support your child's learning. If you find any further websites that you think might be useful please let us know so that we can share the important information with others. There are also a number of useful ipad applications. A particular good one is 'Letter School'.



Useful Apps

- **LetterSchool** (paid) – Awesome app for teaching kids letter sounds and formation.
- **Draw & Tell HD** (paid) – by Duck Duck Moose. Our kids love using the templates, stickers and drawing their own things. Once done, they can animate (move around) the stickers as it records their voice, then watch it back as a movie.
- **Pocketphonic** (paid) – Teaches kids phonics according to the Letters and Sounds guide. Again you can track individual students progress and get email updates on how they do.
- **Agnitus** (free) – A range of activities that I think link to the national curriculum and can be tracked as students make progress through different parts of the app. Well worth looking into and great as a free app.
- **Endless ABC** (free) – A great way for kids to learn new vocabulary. Each word is illustrated by a cool, short animation after they have pieced together the word from the different monster letter puzzle pieces.
- **Scribblepress** (free) – Drawing and writing app for storytelling and anything else you can think of.



Useful Websites

please click on these hyperlinks

starfall.com

ictgames.com

topmarks.co.uk

durham.schooljotter.com/coxhoe

woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk

bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

letters-and-sounds.com

rif.org/kids

bbc.co.uk/schools/parents

topmarks.co.uk/parents/readingtips

storiesfromtheweb.org

primaryresources.co.uk/foundation

kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/earlyjct



Our aim is for both you and your child to have a happy and confident beginning to their school life at The British School of Beijing, Shunyi.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



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