

A Parent's Guide to the Curriculum at Horden Nursery School



What is the curriculum?

The curriculum is everything we want the children to learn and experience in the time they are in nursery. It takes account of your child, their world, the world around them and the wider world.

Learning

Learning includes new skills, new knowledge and new words. Our intention is to equip children with the important communication, physical, emotional and academic skills they need for future learning.

Experiences

This includes all of the opportunities that we offer children. From the experiences available on a daily basis in nursery, to visits to different places, visitors who come to talk to us and special times we share such as hatching chicks and ducks and watching caterpillars change into butterflies.

Children learn much of our curriculum naturally through exploring and playing, and through the activities they choose to do themselves. We observe children closely to make sure that the activities we offer are motivating and linked to their interests.

Children also learn through the books, rhymes and songs that we introduce them to. These are carefully chosen and you can find a list of them in our Curriculum Document in the Playing and Learning section of our website. Watch out for these books and rhymes on Class Dojo. Repeated reading/singing of the same books and songs helps children to learn new words and develop understanding.

We hope that by the time children leave us they have:

- A long lasting love of learning
- A sense of awe, wonder and curiosity
- A breadth of knowledge and skills
- A positive mindset, confidence and belief in themselves
- A 'voice'
- Skills that enable them to communicate and collaborate
- An understanding of their feelings and those of their peers
- Respect for themselves, others and the wider community
- The confidence to 'have a go', take risks and challenge themselves



How do children learn? How do we teach children?

There are lots of ways that young children learn and these shape our teaching. We use a balance of different approaches in our nursery. Some of the approaches we consider important are:

Relationships



Children develop a love of learning and flourish when they are nurtured, feel safe, secure and valued. This is why it is important for each child to have a Key Person who takes responsibility for their care. When children feel loved and understood, their confidence and independence grows. They become more resilient and have an increased sense of well-being.

Language



Communication skills and a wide vocabulary supports children to learn and succeed. Children learn lots of new words when adults play, talk and read with them every day. Studies show that the quality of adult-child interactions can influence how children learn, grow and feel about themselves. This is why it is important that we spend time with children, chatting and interacting, thinking carefully about our interactions.

Child-initiated play



Children need uninterrupted time to develop their own ideas and choose their own play. It enables them to learn through first-hand experiences, supporting them in making friends and understanding sharing and taking turns. Adults often get involved in children's play, however they are sensitive in how they do this, helping children to learn by thinking about the important knowledge and skills that they need.

Adult-guided play



Sometimes children need adults to plan and guide their play. Playful activities may be gently steered or scaffolded by an adult in order to incorporate early learning skills, such as counting or developing hand-eye co-ordination. This way children have the opportunity to try things out for themselves and explore, while being supported in key aspects of their learning and development.

Adult-directed teaching



There are times when adults work directly with children to teach them new skills or knowledge. This might be done in a small group or one to one. Adults will introduce activities or games, actively guiding and supporting children. This could include learning to use scissors, or supporting them in writing letters of their name.

Children learn best through play, therefore we need to give them as many opportunities to explore and play as possible.

How can families support their child's learning?

Working with families is a huge part of our work and is so fundamental. You are the most important people in your child's life, and the ones who know the most about them. Not only do you love, encourage, guide and protect them, you also make a big difference to their learning.

Sharing information and ideas ensures that your child is supported in their learning both at nursery and at home.

- Please look out for ideas and videos that we share on Class Dojo and our Facebook page. You can share and enjoy stories and rhymes that we read and sing at nursery, and try out ideas for playing together.
- You can find lots of information by visiting the Parents and Carers section of our website and clicking on the [Help Your Child At Home](#) tab.
- There are many more ideas on the [Hungry Little Minds](#) website
- Read our [Curriculum Document](#) for more information
- You can also access a guide for families called What to Expect in The Early Years Foundation Stage which can be accessed through the link below, or by scanning the QR code-
[What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf](#)
(foundationyears.org.uk)

