

Reading in EYFS



Alexandra Park Primary School *“Care, Aspire, Achieve”*

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, story-telling 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.

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).

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to help subject leaders to understand how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects.

This document demonstrates which statements from Development Matters are prerequisite skills for reading within the national curriculum. The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters age ranges for Three and Four-Year-Olds and Reception to match the programme of study for reading.

The most relevant statements for reading are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World

Staff use their knowledge and expertise to plan for a high-quality learning environment both indoors and outdoors which provides children with lots of opportunities to develop their reading skills. Please view our EYFS Curriculum Overview.

Reading: Word Reading

Phonics and Decoding

Three and Four-Year-Olds	Literacy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spot and suggest rhymes• count or clap syllables in words• recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother
Reception	Literacy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them.• Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of letter-sound correspondences.• Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them.• Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.
ELG	Literacy	Word Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.• Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.• Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Common Exception Words

Reception	Literacy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme.
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Fluency			
Three and Four-Year-Olds	Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the five key concepts about print: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • print has meaning • print can have different purposes • we can read English text from left to right and from top to bottom • the names of different parts of a book • page sequencing • Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot and suggest rhymes • count or clap syllables in words • recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother 	
Reception	Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of letter-sound correspondences. • Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words. • Re-read books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment. 	
ELG	Literacy	Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Reading: Comprehension		
Understanding and Correcting Inaccuracies		
Three and Four-Year-Olds	Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens. • Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?" • Be able to express a point of view and debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
	Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.
Reception	Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding. • Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words. • Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound. • Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

ELG	Literacy	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary. • Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories. • Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.
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Comparing, Contrasting and Commenting

Three and Four-Year-Olds	Communication and Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to express a point of view and debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
Reception	Understanding the World		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.
ELG	Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.
		Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

Words in Context and Authorial Choice

Three and Four-Year-Olds	Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a wider range of vocabulary. 	
	Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary. 	
Reception	Communication and Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new vocabulary. • Use new vocabulary throughout the day. • Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words. • Use new vocabulary in different contexts. • Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.
ELG	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
	Literacy	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary. • Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.

Inference and Prediction

Three and Four-Year-Olds	Communication and Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"
ELG	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
	Literacy	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.

Poetry and Performance			
Three and Four-Year-Olds	Communication and Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing a large repertoire of songs. • Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.
	Expressive Arts and Design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar. • Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses, etc. • Remember and sing entire songs. • Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match'). • Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down and down and up) of familiar songs. • Create their own songs, or improvise a song around one they know.
Reception	Communication and Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in storytimes. • Retell the story, once they have developed a deep familiarity with the text, some as exact repetition and some in their own words. • Learn rhymes, poems and songs.
	Expressive Arts and Design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody. • Develop storylines in their pretend play.
ELG	Literacy	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
	Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.
		Being Imaginative and Expressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with their peers and their teacher. • Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time to music.
Non-Fiction			
Reception	Communication and Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in non-fiction books. • Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.
ELG	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
	Literacy	Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.

Mapping Curriculum Objectives

How the early learning goals feed into objectives from the Year 1 National Curriculum.

Year 1 National Curriculum Objective

Reading

- Apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words.
- Respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letter or group of letters) for all 40+ phonemes, including (where applicable) sounds for graphemes.
- Read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs that have been taught.
- Read common exception words, noting unusual correspondents between spelling and sound and where these occur in words.
- Read words containing taught GPCs and -s, -es, -ing, -ed, -er and -est endings.
- Read other words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs.
- Read words with contractions (for example, I'm, I'll, we'll), and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s).
- Read books aloud, accurately, that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words.
- Re-read these books to build up fluency and confidence in word reading.

Comprehension

Children should be taught to develop pleasure in reading, motivation

to read, vocabulary and understanding by:

- listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently;
- being encouraged to link what they read or hear to their own experiences;
- becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their particular characteristics;
- recognising and joining in with predictable phrases;
- learning to appreciate rhymes and poems, and to recite some by heart;
- discussing word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known.

Understand both the books they can already read accurately and fluently and those they listen to by:

- drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher;
- checking that the text makes sense to them as they read and correcting inaccurate reading;
- discussing the significance of the title and events;
- making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done;
- predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far;
- participating in discussions about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say;
- explaining clearly their understanding of what is read to them.