

Our Early Years

Our pre-school (Little Jesters) and Reception class form a cohesive Early Years unit, ensuring that your child's transition into school is seamless.

One of the key benefits in our pre-school setting is that children have the opportunity to progress into our Reception class and continue their educational journey with minimal disruption.

We value the Characteristics of Effective Learning and therefore these are at the core of our Early Years curriculum.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

Children are encouraged to play with what they know and to develop the confidence to 'have a go'. We offer our children an experience that will foster a love of learning within a safe and stimulating environment. We build positive and secure relationships which allow our children to flourish.

Active Learning

We have both an indoor and an outdoor environment in both of our Early Years settings. These are carefully resourced to support our children to become independent learners. Children are supported to be more resilient: to keep on trying and achieve what they set out to do, even if it is difficult. We follow the children's interests in our provision which develops high levels of engagement and motivated to learn.

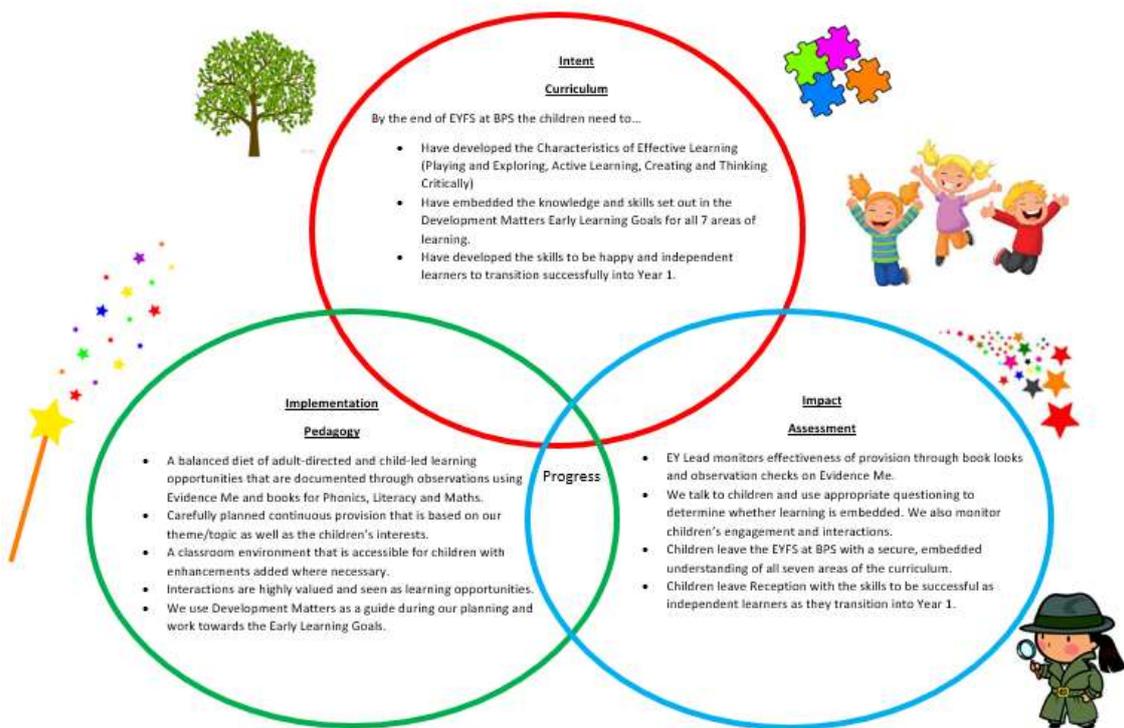
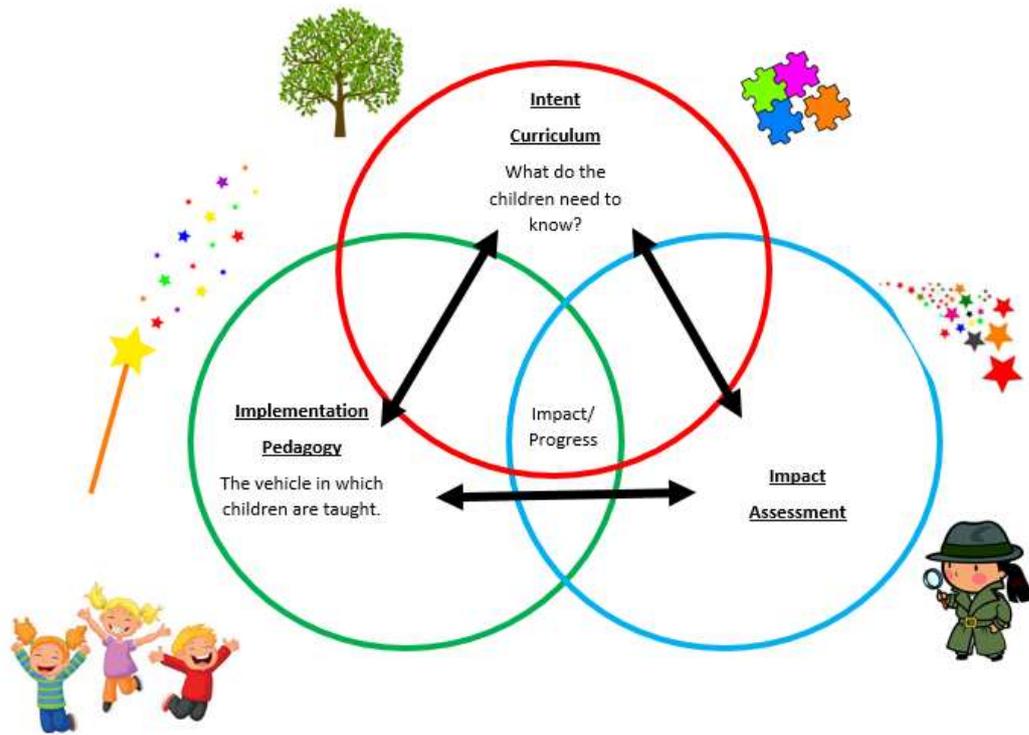
Creating and Thinking Critically

As children engage in a broad range of activities in Early Years, they begin to actively think about the meaning of what they are doing. Children will begin to generate new ideas, make links between experiences and learning and become problem solvers.

Our Approach to Learning

At Berkeley, we believe that play is the greatest gift we can give to our children. Play based learning provides opportunities for children to actively and imaginatively engage with people, objects and the environment. Children are naturally motivated by play. Our play based curriculum builds on this motivation, using play as a context for learning. In this context, children can explore, experiment, discover and solve problems in an imaginative way.

We provide a balanced diet of adult-directed and child-led learning opportunities throughout the week. The children also have access to a variety of areas within the classroom and outdoors where they can independently choose and lead their own learning. We encourage children's learning and natural curiosity through quality interactions that aim to stretch their thinking to higher levels



Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is made up of seven areas of learning. We work towards our children achieving the Early Learning Goals by the time they complete their time in the EYFS. Our EYFS environments are carefully planned and well-resourced to cater for each of these areas. We offer a broad range of experiences for our children, both indoors and outdoors. Our Early Years team plan a range of purposeful activities which inspire and engage children as well as match the different levels of need.

The seven areas of learning that shape our Early Years curriculum are:

The 3 prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The 4 specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Assessment

During the first few weeks of pre-school/ Reception, we will find out what the children already know and can do and use this information to help us plan the children's next steps.

Each child has their own electronic learning journal on an online app called Evidence Me. We use this to keep evidence of their learning through photographs and commentary about what they have been doing. Parents also have full access to this at home and can contribute to this. Parents/ carers can upload photos and comments to their child's learning journal which allows us to gain a holistic view of each child.

Assessments are completed three times a year and this is done through gathering evidence of each child through observations and work samples, as well as teacher/ practitioner judgement. At the end of the academic year parents will receive a report for their child that outlines their successes throughout the year.