



Sutton Park Primary RSA Academy Early Years Rationale

At Sutton Park, we acknowledge the statement that....

“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experience between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is the vital component for life-long wellbeing. Good parenting and high-quality learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up”.

We believe it is essential to provide a nurturing environment where each unique child can experience emotional warmth, with consistent praise and encourage, so that each child feels valued, motivated and confident to meet new challenges and reach their full potential.

Intent:

Within the EYFS, we aim to understand that young children are powerful learners and set a broad range of learning opportunities to fulfil their curiosities. As they explore and learn, children are naturally drawn to play, which is why it is at the heart of our EYFS curriculum. We believe that the appropriate mix of adult led and child- initiated play ensures the best outcomes for our pupils. Warm and positive relationships are fostered through quality time with our key worker children and through developing strong relationships with Parents/Carers. Developing each unique child’s interests are all features of our daily practise that supports wellbeing, and we provide a Thrive Approach to support our pupil’s self-regulation skills. Our staff have high expectations for all children and work hard to help them develop the skills and knowledge to become respectful, independent, resilient and creative learners.

Implementation:

At Sutton Park, we believe that the Early Years are the most important in providing the fundamental building blocks to all aspects of learning. We provide a broad curriculum across all seven areas of the Early Years and believe that the four principles are all equally important; the ***unique child***, building ***positive relationships*** with each unique child and providing the ***enabling environments*** for their ***learning and development*** to flourish.

It is during these first years that they develop the skills to recognise numbers, count objects, read and write letter sounds and use these to blend them together to read and write simple words also. Reading begins in Little Sparks Nursery, with books being a central point of learning. Please refer to our progression in learning document, for reading, writing and maths, which show progression from entry in Nursery across to the end of Reception.

In order to develop pupils’ fluency, confidence and enjoyment in reading, we ensure we have a rigorous and sequential approach to the reading curriculum. This

begins in Reception and remains a priority throughout the school. We follow the same Read, Write Inc phonics scheme as the whole school and we deliver phonics as a EYFS Unit with specific ability groups being taught at various ability levels daily. Every EYFS Staff member has their own group of Key Worker children and these groups are given specific time each week with their key worker staff members.

Our children will:

- Develop and explore their vocabulary and interest before learning to read using PAIR books in EYFS, encouraging parental structured discussions.
- Learn to recognise letter sounds (phonemes); to learn how to accurately form each letter, to identify how sounds are created (graphemes), segment and blend to read words accurately using the Read, Write Inc.(RWI)
- Read matched books, either through RWI books or PAIR in Little Sparks Nursery.
- Be exposed to a wide range of texts all seven areas of our curriculum including sharing class texts, which are voted for by the children.
- Develop and improve their communication and language through speaking and listening activities.
- Learn a deep understanding of numbers to 10 and explore numerical patterns.
- To be provided with opportunities to learn outdoor skills in our Forest School.
- Spend time with their Key Worker and build positive relationships.
- Be provided with opportunities to develop their emotional literacy skills through a Whole School Thrive Approach.
- Develop self-confidence with their own physical development, both fine motor and gross motor skills.

Impact:

Little Sparks Nursery children will work towards the 3 and 4 year old expectations of the Development Matters document. Our Reception work towards achieving the 17 Early Learning Goals by the end of their Reception year. These judgements are based on a combination of adult led and child-initiated learning.

At the end of the Reception year the children will also be assessed on their achievements against the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning.

“Assessments of children’s learning are detailed, and all staff contribute to them. The effective assessments ensure that planning builds upon children’s learning. As a result, children are making good progress across the early years. Children are exceptionally well prepared for Year 1. “ OFSTED March 2017