

Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage starts from the age of three, when a child could be in pre-school, and continues in school until the child enters Year 1. The Foundation Stage builds on children's pre-school experiences and extends these further.

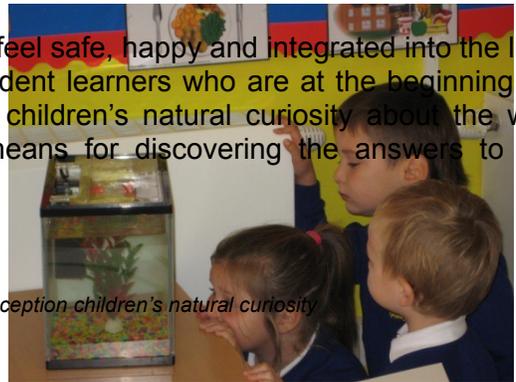
Until a child starts at either school, playgroup or nursery the child's main educator is likely to be the parent and, in fact a child generally learns more in these first years e.g. to walk, speak, listen, eat, dress, understand instructions etc. than they will learn throughout the remainder of their life. This is one of the reasons why we encourage and aim to achieve close links with parents, as by working in partnership the child's education will be far more successful.

At Orsett, our Foundation Stage children will follow a scheme of work based on six areas of learning:

- Personal, Social, Health and Emotional development (PSHE)
- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematical development
- Creative development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical development

These areas form the basis of the Foundation curriculum and are delivered through a variety of teaching methods e.g. structured play and focussed activities either as a whole class, a group or individually. There are also many opportunities for child initiated learning as we believe that if a child shows curiosity about an area and wishes to investigate it further then, where possible, this should be encouraged.

During this Foundation Year we aim to ensure that the children feel safe, happy and integrated into the life of the school. Our aim is for them to become independent, confident learners who are at the beginning of a lifetime of learning opportunities. We also aim to maximise children's natural curiosity about the world around them thus enthusing them towards learning as a means for discovering the answers to their questions.



Reception children's natural curiosity