

More detail about Early Years

There are four guiding principles that shape the practice in our Early Years Unit. This is reinforced in the EYFS Statutory Framework (April 2017).

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. This means we recognise that children develop in individual ways and at varying rates.

At Bracken Leas we are inclusive and ensure that no child or family is discriminated against, and that the health, wellbeing and safety of the children in our care are paramount.

- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.

We see parents and carers as partners – when family and staff work together it have a positive impact on children’s development and learning. We

- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

At Bracken Leas we believe that the rich indoor and outdoor learning spaces in the Early Years unit will support all children in their learning and development. The environment allows the children to access resources independently. Children’s achievements and learning experiences are shared on ‘Tapestry’.

- Children **develop and learn** in different ways and at different rates.

We know that children learn best through experience and during these formative years these experiences are most valuable when children are engaged in playful activities. When children are deeply engaged in play they are exploring, experimenting, investigating, problem solving, compromising, consolidating and teaching. At Bracken Leas we strive to provide children with the opportunities to develop these skills every day through their play.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

The EYFS also places great importance on the characteristics of effective teaching and learning. These underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things and ‘have a go

active learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements and

creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

In the Early Years at Bracken Leas we plan activities that will support children to develop the skills set out in the EYFS Curriculum guidance. This curriculum focuses on seven areas of learning and development all of which are important and inter-connected.

The three prime areas, which are crucial for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive, are:

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

There are four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design