

Learning in Early Years

Provision

Children attend our full time provision from 3 years of age to 5 years. We offer full time provision in our setting, with places for 60 children in both Nursery and Reception classes.

In Nursery children are able to join us once they have had their third birthday as long as there are available places. If we are full then children are placed upon a waiting list. Applications for Reception places must be made through Newcastle City Council (please refer to our Admissions Policy).

We aim for a quick but smooth transition into EYFS and so we offer several visits for children, families and staff to get to know each other and to share relevant information. Some children may be offered gradual starts into Nursery or indeed Reception but this is dependent upon the needs of the child; however we are keen that children get into their school routine as quickly as possible. Home visits may also be offered if staff feel that this would be beneficial.

Curriculum

At Hilton Primary Academy we believe in giving our children fantastic learning experiences through a diverse, rich and creative curriculum and this begins in Early Years Foundation Stage.

Our motto is... Enjoy... Achieve... Inspire... For Life!

We place a large emphasis upon the Prime areas of learning. Staff work sensitively to develop social and emotional skills to ensure that children are able to communicate and cooperate with those around them. Children need to be able to communicate and share their thinking therefore the development of children's language skills are central to our curriculum.

In the EYFS pupils are encouraged to explore through the wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities and resources. Adults are skilled practitioners, key workers and 'co-adventurers' that provide learning opportunities which develop knowledge and understanding, but also confidence and self-esteem. Children are encouraged to ask questions, and explain their ideas – often working with others. This sustained shared thinking encourages pupils to take their understanding to a higher level and therefore pupil fascinations drive the curriculum. This child-initiated learning is complemented by daily adult directed group activities to reinforce basic skills and secure rapid academic progress. Daily phonics and maths sessions are delivered with opportunities for children to practice and embed their new skills. Although we are keen to follow pupils' interests, to ensure breadth and balance we also promote learning in whole class projects.

Experiences:

Real-life and rich experiences promote and provide opportunities for staff to deliver the key skills that are appropriate at different developmental stages. Stimulating environments and wide range of opportunities ensure that children are highly motivated and very eager to join in. They consistently show the characteristics of effective learning. These are just some of the experiences that we may offer:

Nursery – Explore	Reception – Collect	Year One – Observe
Visit exciting places Handle animals Plant and grow Use hand tools	Visit the House of Objects Create 'collecting bags' Visit the beach Visit a woodland Go to Hancock Museum	Visit a forest Build a shelter Make campfires Visit a gallery Look at something close up