



Floor Books

The use of floor books develops a learning environment where young children's inquisitiveness and curiosities are nurtured. It is an approach we feel will engage children in their learning and motivate them to explore, discover, investigate and learn, as it is fundamentally a child-led approach. The tasks require team work and effective communication so there will be plenty of opportunities for your children to work with their peers over the weeks.

How does it work in the classroom?

- Each week the children will come to their group having thought through a question they would wish to ask related to the learning theme of the week e.g. farm animals. In the group, they will present their question idea and vote as a group which question they would like to pick to research.
- Once the group have decided on a question, they will conduct research with adult support if needed. This could be by drawing, painting or building. It could be by carrying out an experiment, looking in a book, researching using the internet or from asking others.
- Afterwards, they will be asked to write a sentence or more about their learning.
- Once they have all their work they will present it in the class floor book. This will include their writing, pictures, photos and any additional representations of their research. The children will have ownership over the class floor book.

Using our new online blog system, SEESAW, we will communicate the theme of the week and ask that you are involved by discussing the topic with your children and posting questions on SEESAW about what your child would like to ask. Supporting your child to generate questions will be very helpful in the initial group discussion. Questions such as, 'Why can't a lion live at the North Pole?', 'Why would a hippo not make a good pet?', 'Are tigers in danger?' and 'Where do penguins live?' would be perfect for the research the children could explore as they cover geography, history, science and understanding of the world.



Rainbow Challenge

Each week the children will be set new challenges to complete in different areas of the Early Year Curriculum.

Red – writing challenge

Blue – maths challenge

Green – understanding the world challenge

Yellow – phonics challenge

Pink – expressive arts and design challenge

Purple – physical development challenge

Once they have completed challenge they will earn the coloured lolly pop stick to put in their cup on display. At the end of the week, the children who have earned all the sticks and therefore completed the challenges will get a special sticker reward.

What are the benefits?

- Motivation – These are a great way to motivate children to engage in activities that they may not usually like to join in with such as reluctant mark makers or children who like to spend all day in the construction area
- Positive reinforcement – Works through positive reinforcement and rewarding children for keeping on trying and joining in, helping to promote the characteristics of effective learning at the same time too.
- Core Skills – These challenges will be used to promote core skills sets such as fine motor skills, communication skills, knowledge of self etc.

The Early Years Curriculum

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The areas of learning are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

At St Edmund Campion School, we will teach and support and assess your against the 17 Early Learning Goals and the characteristics of Effective Learners. For more information please see <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>

How can you help your children academically?

Your child has a busy day and will probably be very tired, so we do not set specific homework. However, there are lots of things you can do at home to support the work we are doing in school.

Reading is an important life skill and in Foundation we are keen to help your child develop a love of reading. You can help by:

- Reading a range of stories to your child.
- Looking at non-fiction books about subjects your child is interested in.
- Read your child's school reading books with them as often as possible and comment in their reading diary.
- Practise key words and phonics sounds with them, little and often.
- Talk about books and stories and encourage your children to make up their own stories.

Writing

- Playing and doing activities that involve fine and gross motor skills.
- Practising letter formation and recognition
- Practise writing your child's name and simple words using correct upper and lower-case letters.
- Talking about stories and ideas for writing.

Maths

- Practise counting objects and counting up to 10/20
- Look at shapes at home and in the environment.

- Use comparative language so as more, fewer, heavier, lighter, larger, smaller, longer, shorter.

Talking to your child about the world around them and encouraging them to talk about what they see and ask questions and explain their ideas will all help them develop their critical thinking skills and resilience.