

Explaining your child's "Big book of me" learning journal

Pre-schools, nurseries and reception classes all work within the statutory framework, 'The Early Years Foundation Stage' 2024 (EYFS).

There are 3 Prime areas and 4 Specific areas of development.

The 3 Prime areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

The 4 Specific areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We also use the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning which are broken down into:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

This helps practitioners support your child's learning across all the 7 areas of learning in the most appropriate manner.

Ofsted require us to observe and keep records of your child's progress whilst they are at Little Doves Christian Pre-school. We do this by appointing your child a key person; it is their duty to keep a record of your child's development and learning through individual observations, group observations and photographs. The key person is responsible for using the Development Matters document to accurately assess and make informed decisions about what your child needs to learn and be able to do next. The key person also creates a special journal with information about what they have witnessed your child achieve, photos of achievements and fun activities as well as artwork showing your child's development over their time with us which we call the "Big book of me".

The Development Matters framework continues into reception class, and early learning goals are based on typical child development until the age of 5. Each child is unique and develops at a different rate so your child will only be working towards the 3 and 4 year old Early Learning Goals at Little Doves Christian Pre-school. Some children achieve the goals earlier than others, most children will not make the expected level until the end of their reception year at school. We note observations as emerging or expected. At Little Doves each key person will use their professional knowledge to assess their key children and then plan learning and development for them holistically in the birth to 3 and then the 3 and 4 year old ranges. Some children may be moved by their key person into the reception level if the key person is sure their key child is 100% confident in the lower age band.