

## Early Years at Siddal Primary School-an a to z guide.

- a- is for **assessment**. We use the online assessment tool Early Essence to record children's achievements across the Early Years Outcomes. You can view your child's learning journey here: [www.primaryessence.co.uk/siddalprimary](http://www.primaryessence.co.uk/siddalprimary). We whole heartedly encourage you to contribute to this too.
- b. is for **book bags**. We provide a school book bag for every child. Please check your child's book bag every day-this is where we will put any letters, lunch menus, additional information and homework.
- c. is for **continuous provision**. This is the classroom environment, both inside and out. We plan and provide a range of open ended resources and present them to the children in different areas of the classroom, including role play, small world, writing, busy fingers and water. Talk to your child about where they have been learning each day.
- d. is for  **Dressing and undressing**. We encourage your child to be as independent as they can be. This includes getting changed for our weekly PE session and putting their coat and shoes on. Please send your child to school in uniform that they can manage themselves-including Velcro shoes rather than laces and polo shirts instead of shirts and tie. You can also support your child by teaching them how to dress and undress themselves at home.
- e. is for **Early Years Outcomes**. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:
- Communication and language;
  - Physical development; and
  - Personal, social and emotional development.
- These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.
- As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:
- Literacy;
  - Mathematics;
  - Understanding the world; and
  - Expressive arts and design.
- f. is for **Fun**. Our Early Years Unit is an exciting place to be. We use the children's interests as a starting point for our planning and aim to provide creative, stimulating activities and experiences.
- g. is for **Good Level of Development**. At the end of the Reception year, all children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals across all 17 areas of learning as either emerging (working towards the goal), expected (working at age related expectations) or exceeding (working beyond the expectations for a child their age). To achieve a good level of development your child needs to achieve expected or exceeding in all prime areas and Reading, Writing, Number and

Shape, Space and Measure. To view the Early Learning Goals for all areas of learning, click here: [https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Early\\_Years\\_Outcomes.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Early_Years_Outcomes.pdf)

- h. is for **high expectations**. We want the very best for the children in our care and it is because of this that we have high expectations for behaviour, conduct and work ethic.
- i. is for **information afternoons and evenings**. Throughout the year we run several information sessions and Parent's evenings. If possible, please attend as many as you can. These sessions are your opportunity to gain more information about various aspects of your child's curriculum and learn strategies to further support them at home.

- j. is for **journey**. When they enter the Early Years unit at Siddal Primary School, your child is starting their school journey. We work hard to ensure the transition into our unit is a smooth one, offering you and your child a home visit, a Nursery visit (Reception) an information evening, stay and play sessions (Nursery) and transition day. You are more than welcome to have as many stay and play sessions as you want, as these are an opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with the classroom, their teachers and their peers. It is also your opportunity to meet the teachers, ask any questions you may have and interact with your child in their new environment.

We place just as much importance on the transition from Early Years into Year 1, and start the process formally in the Summer term, when the children go to their new classroom for story and circle times in addition to the whole school transition day. However, the informal aspects of the transition process are on-going, including cross key stage activities, whole school 'off timetable' days, assemblies and events.

- k. is for **Key Worker**. When your child starts in our Early Years Unit, either in Reception or Nursery they will be given a key worker. The welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Guidance explain that the role of the key worker is to:

- Help a child to become familiar with the setting and to feel safe and confident

- Talk to parents and carers to make sure the needs of the child are being met appropriately

- l. is for **learning through doing**. Much of our learning is done through exploration, investigation and provocation.
- m. is for **getting messy** (sometimes!) We place great importance on sensory experiences both inside and out. We use a range of sensory materials to practice our writing and develop our fine motor skills. We encourage the children to dress appropriately for their activity but occasionally they may come home wet or muddy or full of chalk/paint. Please know that they will have had an amazing time engaging in the activity, and we try to use washable materials.

- n. is for **Number and Shape, Space and Measure**. These are the Maths aspects of the Early Years Outcomes. We try to immerse our children in numbers from the moment they arrive in our care. We focus on developing numeral recognition up to 20, counting skills, addition, subtraction and simple problem solving, using the language of measure, time and pattern. You can really support your child's mathematical understanding by continuing to point out numbers in your home, at the shops and out and about. You can also reinforce the language of time and measure when talking with your child.
- o. is for **Outdoors**. We learn outside in all weathers because we see the natural world as a constant learning opportunity and believe lots can be learnt from rain, snow, wind, fog, sleet etc. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather including warm coats and wellies, sun cream and sunhats.
- p. is for **phonics**. We teach reading through synthetic phonics, following the Read, Write inc programme. We introduce a sound a day from the first day in Reception and teach blending from the beginning as well. Your child will bring home a sound book to practice- little and often is best!
- q. is for any **questions**. The Early Years team are available to answer any questions you might have at drop off and collection times. If your question or concern is going to take a while to address staff might invite you back at a designated time so they can give you their full attention!
- r. is for **Reading books**. Early Literacy is a crucial part of our curriculum and we therefore ask that you support us at home as best you can. Once children have learned the first set of sounds we learn to blend these sounds together to make words. At this point children will begin to bring home reading books, either with or without words for you to practise with them. It is important that you listen to your child read every day, and write in their reading log to let us know of any successes or things to work on.
- s. is for **school readiness**. This is a measure of the knowledge, skills and behaviours that enable children to participate and succeed in school. It is about the development of the whole child - their social and emotional skills, physical skills, communication skills and cognitive skills. You can prepare your child for starting school in a variety of ways:
- Support your child to be confident about using the toilet, including getting to the toilet in time, wiping properly and using toilet paper.
  - Talk about the importance of good handwashing with soap and water with your child, especially after going to the toilet, before eating or after handling animals.
  - Teach your child to use a tissue, putting it in the bin straightaway, then washing hands to kill germs.
  - teach your child how to use a full-sized knife and fork and carry a plate or tray. If your child is taking a lunchbox, make sure they can open it as well as any containers and packets inside.

- t. is for **talking**. It might sound obvious but early language development is a huge part of our curriculum. We dedicate a large part of our day to developing communication skills and ask that you support us in this at home by encouraging your child to talk about their day and their learning, asking questions and encouraging them to speak in full sentences. It will also help your child settle if they are able to:
- listen and follow age appropriate instructions.
  - show an interest and be able to pay attention to a variety of subjects.
  - know enough words to be able to tell you their needs, feelings, thoughts or ideas.
  - know and be able to tell someone else their name, their age and the names of their close family members.
  - share and play with others, take responsibility for and understand the outcomes of their actions.
  - be curious and ask questions about their environment and experiences,
  - respond to rules and boundaries.
  - tell you their needs such as toileting, thirst, hunger
- u. is for **understanding**. We understand that starting school is a huge step for both the child and their Parent/Carer. Please know that our door is always open for a chat about any concerns or celebrations you wish to share with us.
- v. is for good **vibrations**. On entering our Early Years unit, you will quickly become aware of the 'buzz'. A feeling of excitement, interest and productivity that we feel sums up our ethos. We strive to ensure we provide your children with an exciting, engaging environment in which to learn, and encourage them to become curious, enquirers. This feeling should hit you when you walk into and around our classroom. If you want to know more, please feel free to organise a visit by contacting the school office.
- w. is for **Writing**. We learn to form our letters in all sorts of different, exciting ways! We celebrate all writing and mark marking on our writing walls, where every child's work is displayed. Come in and look at your child's writing any time. You can help your child at home by encouraging writing or mark making, giving them something to write about and supporting them in forming the letters correctly. At first, your child will learn to write words 'as they sound' and will use their fingers to 'sound out' the words. If you would like any additional resources to use at home, please pop in and see a member of the Early Years team.
- x. is for **extra information**. If you need any more information about Early Years or our school, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01422 354976 or continue to browse our website.
- y. is for **yummy lunches and snack**. We promote healthy eating throughout school so ensure the children have access to a range of fruit and vegetables, water and milk throughout the day. Children in Reception are entitled to a free school meal, and Nursery children can join in for a small cost of £2.10 per day or alternatively can bring a packed lunch.
- z. is for **Zumba, taekwondo, arts and crafts...** We offer a range of after school activities for children throughout school. We encourage Reception children to start coming to clubs in the Spring term, once they are used to the longer school day!