

## Introduction

The principle on which the curriculum has been designed is based on the foundation stage profile. The young children's learning is best promoted in a setup by creating a learning environment that is well planned, organized, has scope for purposeful play and routines both indoors and outdoors which match the children's needs and interests. Children should be encouraged to make choices and have the freedom and confidence to plan and take decisions, think creatively, explore experiment and express themselves. Play activities should be designed to build on what children already know and can do and encourage positive attitudes towards learning. Children should be able to participate in both adult led as well as self initiated play. Activities must support and extend the children's knowledge, skills and attitudes towards learning. Knowledge, in the preschool setting, is the information that teachers believe children should acquire to be successful both in preschool and in the primary grades.

## Areas of Learning

*Social and Emotional Development:* Emotional skills affect the well-being and development of a child. Emotional skills include how to handle emotions such as fear, frustration or disappointment and express them in acceptable ways. The first few months of pre-school are very challenging for a young child for whom this is the first time he/she is away from the comfort of home for long hours. The pre-schools focus in this area should be on acknowledging the child's feelings and helping them label their emotions. Children are learning to share space, toys and the attention of the adults in the setup. Everyday activities should provide the opportunity for children to feel success and feel competent and proud of their achievements. This helps them build positive attitudes towards learning. Circle time should be an opportunity for children to share their thoughts in a safe environment. Social skills will be practiced during role-play, block play, play with puppets and group play.

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Communication, Language & Literacy: Young children acquire complex language skills by practicing new words, remembering details, and telling longer more intricate stories. This should be fostered through activities that involve active listening and responding as in music and movement. Sustaining concentration for certain periods of time with engaging activities, reasoning and thinking as in solving puzzles, block play etc. should be encouraged. Ample opportunities to experiment with the newly acquired language skills during role-play, free play show and tell sessions should be given. A good collection of age appropriate books which are easily accessible to children would be an added asset in any preschool.

Problem Solving, Reasoning & Numeracy: Activities in this area should be very much integrated with music and movement and language activities. Activities which develop cognitive skills and concepts such as matching, grouping, classifying and establishing common relations should be in everyday routines. These skills provide the foundation for mastering reading, science and mathematics in elementary school. Number concepts should be taught through rhymes and everyday counting opportunities during play.

Physical Development & Creative Development: These areas of development must be fostered through opportunities for structured as well as free play in the soft gym area. Working on fine and gross motor skills during music and movement, scribbling on the white board and paper. Learning to hold a pencil, brush, crayon and blocks. In preschool creativity is primarily a kinesthetic, or movement oriented experience. As children paint, draw, pound and roll clay, bang on the table, move their bodies rhythmically they use and develop large and small muscles gaining motor control, strength, balance and eye-hand coordination.