

**Communication and language**

The quality of the conversations children have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial as adults can echo back what children say with new vocabulary added. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts provides opportunities for children to thrive.

**Literacy**

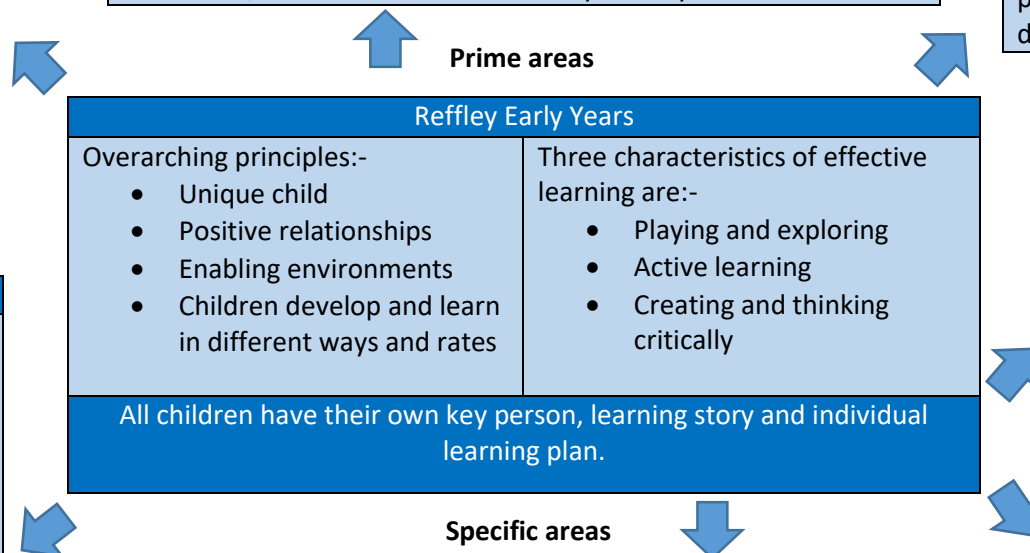
Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription and composition.

**Physical development**

Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy.

**Personal, social and emotional development**

Children's PSED is crucial for children and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Strong relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary.



**Expressive arts and design**

It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.

**Mathematics**

Involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting confidently, developing a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics.

**Understanding the world**

Involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world.