



PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE EYFS

“Art has the role in education of helping children become like themselves instead of more like everyone else.”
 ~ Sydney Gurewitz Clemens



Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children’s all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives⁷. 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 through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults. 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. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

	Children will be learning to...	What the learning will look like...
Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) Age - 3 & 4	<p>Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.</p> <p>Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet.</p> <p>Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues.</p> <p>Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.</p> <p>Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams.</p> <p>Increasingly be able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm.</p> <p>Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width.</p> <p>Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.</p>	<p>Encourage children to transfer physical skills learnt in one context to another one. Suggestion: children might first learn to hammer in pegs to mark their Forest school boundary, using a mallet. Then, they are ready to learn how to use hammers and nails at the woodwork bench.</p> <p>Encourage children to paint, chalk or make marks with water on large vertical surfaces. Suggestion: use walls as well as easels to stimulate large shoulder and arm movements. These experiences help children to ‘cross the mid-line’ of their bodies. When they draw a single line from left to right, say, they don’t need to pass the paintbrush from one hand to another or have to move their whole body along.</p> <p>Lead movement-play activities when appropriate. These will challenge and enhance children’s physical skills and development – using both fixed and flexible resources, indoors and outside. Model the vocabulary of movement – ‘gallop’, ‘slither’ – and encourage children to use it. Also model the vocabulary of instruction – ‘follow’, ‘lead’, ‘copy’ – and encourage children to use it.</p> <p>Encourage children to become more confident, competent, creative and adaptive movers. Then, extend their learning by providing opportunities to play outdoors in larger areas, such as larger parks and spaces in the local area, or through Forest or Beach school.</p> <p>Explain why safety is an important factor in handling tools, and moving equipment and materials. Have clear and sensible rules for everybody to follow.</p>