Whittington
CofE (VA)
Primary School & Nursery

CATERPILLARS

Nursery Curriculum Goals

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR RECEPTION

Love
Honesty
Courage
Quality
Community

Living and Learning with God by our side

Providing children with a toolkit for life.

At Caterpillars, we believe every child deserves the very best start. Our EYFS curriculum is play-based, language-rich and rooted in nurturing relationships. We believe children learn best when they feel safe, loved and inspired to explore. Like caterpillars, children need time to grow, investigate and develop at their own pace. Through play, nurturing relationships and carefully planned experiences, we help every child grow strong roots in confidence, curiosity, communication and independence before they spread their wings to further their education.

At Whittington Nursery, we recognize that every child develops at their own place. Our curriculum is carefully designed to build secure foundations across the 7 areas of learning within the EYFS. By the time children leave nursery they will have developed the knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare them for a successful transition into Reception

ROOTS TO GROW, WINGS TO FLY

1. PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Build warm relationships and friendships
- Begin to recognise and talk about feelings
- Develop confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging
- Become increasingly independent in routines and self-care
- Show kindness, respect and care for others

2. COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- Listen with increasing attention
- Follow simple and two-step instructions
- Develop a rich and growing vocabulary
- Ask questions and share ideas and feelings
- Enjoy conversations, songs, rhymes and stories

3. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Develop strength, balance and coordination
- Build fine-motor control through purposeful play
- Use pencils, scissors, tools and cutlery safely
- Become increasingly independent with dressing, toileting and handwashing
- Understand simple ways to keep healthy and safe

4. LITERACY

- Develop a love of books, stories and rhymes
- Handle books and talk about pictures and events
- Recognise their own name
- Enjoy mark making and give meaning to marks
- Hear rhythm, rhyme and initial sounds through playful phonics

5. MATHEMATICS

- Count in everyday play and routines
- Begin to recognise small quantities without counting
- Compare groups using more, fewer and the same
- Explore pattern, shape, space and measure
- Use mathematical thinking to solve simple problems

6. UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Show curiosity about people, places and the natural world
- Talk about families, community and experiences
- Explore similarities, differences, cultures and celebrations
- Notice seasons, changes and living things
- Investigate how things work and use technology safely

7. EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Explore and experiment with a wide range of materials
- Create and design using imagination
- Sing songs, nursery rhymes and explore rhythm
- Move to music and express ideas through movement
- Enjoy role play, storytelling and making performances

OUR CATERPILLARS ARE ALSO LEARNING HOW TO LEARN

PLAYING & EXPLORING

- Be curious
- Make choices
- Have a go

ACTIVE LEARNING

- Concentrate
- Keep trying
- Feel proud of achievements

CREATING & THINKING CRITICALLY

- Have ideas
- Solve problems
- Make links

Growing confident, curious and kind learners — ready to spread their wings into Reception.

Strong roots • Secure relationships • Purposeful play • Rich experiences • Family partnership