

# Haxby Playgroups Curriculum

## About Us

At Haxby Playgroups, we provide a nurturing environment that offers every child a strong sense of belonging and security. Children are encouraged to explore and learn through a rich, play-based curriculum, supported by professional and knowledgeable practitioners who share a reflective and collaborative approach. Our calm, safe physical environment is flexible and adaptable, enabling us to respond to children's evolving interests, emotions, and needs.

## Our Curriculum Vision

At Haxby Playgroups, we believe every child deserves the best possible start in life. Our curriculum nurtures curiosity, creativity, and confidence in a safe, inclusive, and joyful environment. We use in-the-moment planning to capture children's interests as they unfold, extending their play through sensitive, high-quality interactions. Rooted in the Birth to 5 Matters guidance and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), our approach values the uniqueness of every child and supports them to be curious learners, confident communicators, and caring friends.

## Key Curriculum Principles

### In-the-Moment Planning

Learning happens best when it is meaningful and connected to a child's current interests. Practitioners respond to what children are doing right now, supporting their development in real time. Observations and reflections help us celebrate learning and plan next steps naturally.

### Outdoor Learning

The outdoors is an extension of our classroom. We encourage exploration, risk-taking, and discovery in all seasons. Nature-based play promotes resilience, problem-solving, and a love of the environment.

### Wellbeing and Emotional Development

Emotional wellbeing underpins all learning. We foster secure attachments through nurturing relationships and consistent routines. Children are supported to recognise and manage their feelings, build friendships, and develop confidence.

### Play-Based Learning

Play is central to everything we do, it is how children make sense of their world. Through imaginative, exploratory, and cooperative play, children develop across all areas of learning. Our environment is filled with open-ended resources that encourage independence and creativity.

## **How Birth to 5 Matters Shapes Our Practice**

Our curriculum is guided by the Birth to 5 Matters framework, ensuring that every child's development is supported holistically. We embrace the Characteristics of Effective Learning – Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, and Thinking Critically – within all experiences and routines.

**Playing and Exploring:** Children learn best through curiosity and discovery. We provide open-ended resources and time for deep engagement in play.

**Active Learning:** We encourage persistence and concentration through hands-on activities that excite and motivate children.

**Thinking Critically:** Children are supported to make choices, solve problems, and reflect on their experiences through practitioner-led conversations and thoughtful questioning.

## **Areas of Learning and Development**

Our curriculum follows the seven areas of learning within the EYFS, guided by Birth to 5 Matters developmental pathways.

### **Prime Areas**

- Communication and Language – building vocabulary, listening, and understanding through conversations, stories, and songs.
- Physical Development – developing strength, coordination, and self-care skills through active, sensory play.
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development – supporting independence, empathy, and emotional literacy through shared play and daily routines.

### **Specific Areas**

- Literacy – nurturing a love of books, storytelling, and early mark-making.
- Mathematics – exploring numbers, patterns, and shapes in everyday experiences.
- Understanding the World – encouraging curiosity about people, places, nature, and technology.
- Expressive Arts and Design – inspiring creativity through music, movement, art, and imaginative play.

## **Our Environment**

Our indoor and outdoor spaces are thoughtfully designed to promote exploration, discovery, and independence. Natural and open-ended materials encourage imagination and problem-solving. Cosy spaces support calm, reflective play, while outdoor learning happens every day – rain or shine.

## **Partnerships with Families**

We see parents and carers as partners in every child's journey. We share learning through conversations, photos, and regular updates, ensuring each child's progress is celebrated and supported both at home and at playgroup.

## **Contact Details**

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