

Our Early Years

Children in our nursery and reception class enter a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment. The class is attentive to the social, physical and cognitive development of children. We encourage independence and responsibility in our learners.



We aim to strike an inclusive balance of direct teaching and exploration play, seeing great value in both child-led and adult initiated learning. We believe that systematic and regular direct teaching enhances and deepens the quality of child-initiated learning and a careful equilibrium enables children to flourish and prosper in securing essential life skills.

Our nursery is Montessori inspired with the environment and teaching incorporating Montessori principles and resources wherever possible.

There are plenty of physical activities and frequent changes from task to task. Children learn how to communicate their needs and are encouraged to fulfil their learning needs through independent exploration. Learning should be fun and we strongly believe in first hand experiences, valuing the importance of the outdoor environment to develop children's thinking and problem-solving skills.

Through this combination of teaching methods, our aim is to allow the children to make good progress in achieving the goals of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Children can join our nursery in the term leading up to their third birthday.

A typical day in nursery

Time	Activity
9.00am to 9.10am	Arrival and registration
9.10am to 9.30am	Phonics session, through directed teaching
9.30am to 9.50am	Snack and individual reading time
9.50am to 11.00am	Child initiated learning. This is when children learn through play and exploration with the support of a practitioner. The environment supports the development of the child through a variety of organised areas covering literacy, mathematics, science, reasoning skills, understanding of the word and creative skills. Outdoor exploration also encouraged
11.00am to 11.30am	Directed teaching session – Literacy or Maths – alternate days
11.30am to 12.00pm	Directed teaching session of Quran
12.00pm to 12.30pm	Outdoor play or Directed teaching of Quran for the afternoon-only children
12.30pm to 1.00pm	Lunch time or Child initiated learning for the afternoon-only children
1.00pm to 1.45pm	Directed teaching session, covering the areas Topic, Computing, Science, PE and Islamic studies
1.45pm to 2.40pm	Child initiated learning (See above)
2.40pm to 3.00pm	Story time and going home

'At Date Valley we are respectful, reflective and resilient learners'