Skills Overview – Reception

Communication and Language

Listening and Attention
- Children listen attentively in a range of situations.
- They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.
- They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

Understanding
- Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
- They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Speaking
- Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs.
- They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.
- They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

Literacy

Reading
- Children read and understand simple sentences.
- They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately.
- They also read some common irregular words.
- They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

Writing
- Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds.
- They also write some irregular common words.
- They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others.
- Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

Mathematics

Numbers
- Children count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.
- Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.
- They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Shape Space and Measures
- Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems.
- They recognise, create and describe patterns.
- They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships
- Children play co-operatively, taking turns with others.
- They take account of one another's ideas about how to organise their activity.
- They show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.

Self-confidence and Self awareness
- Children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others.
- They are confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities.
- They say when they do or don't need help.

Managing Feelings and Behaviour
- Children talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences, and know that some behaviour is unacceptable.
- They work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules.
- They adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride.

Understanding the World

People and Communities
- Children talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members.
- They know that other children don't always enjoy the same things, and are sensitive to this.
- They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

The World
- Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.
- They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.
- They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.

Technology
- Children recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools.
- They select and use technology for particular purposes.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling
- Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements.
- They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.
- They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Health and Self-care
- Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe.
- They manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and Using Media and Materials
- Children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them.
- They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Being Imaginative
- Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes.
- They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.