

Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds



# Brearley Nursery School

## Planning Booklet

**Birth -3year olds/3-4year olds**

# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

### **BREARLEY NURSERY SCHOOL**

This document has been compiled by staff. It is based on our previous planning book which looked at the Foundation Stage, areas of learning, stepping-stones and early learning goals the government's guidelines for children's education in the Foundation Stage, which covers children from birth until the end of their reception year.

Staff have taken the previous document and the Practice Guidance for the New Early Years Foundation Stage- September 2021, the characteristics of effective teaching and learning sets the standards for teaching, learning, development and care for children from birth to five, to form our new planning book. We have taken the Development matters and some learning objectives from the previous document to form this new document.

Development matters from

Birth – 3 year olds - months highlighted- Black  
3- 4 year olds -Purple

The Development matters learning objectives and Phase 1 within the Letters and Sounds, help staff identify steps children need to take in working towards the Reception and Early Learning Goals. Children all develop at different rates and individual children's progress is recorded in the Assessment System

Staff members use this document to identify the learning objectives they hope to cover with most children during each term. At the end of each term they will review what has been covered and look to areas they need to address next. In this way staff can ensure they give children a broad range of experiences covering all areas of the curriculum.

Some learning objectives are on-going. They are not visited just once. The classroom is organised to provide an environment that gives children opportunities to experience many of the learning objectives. Staff will plan for specific objectives in their weekly planning.

When staff members plan each term they will highlight the objectives to be experienced with the appropriate colour spot.

## Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

### Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

#### Birth -3 year olds

Objectives shaded in purple have been covered in the Autumn term.

Objectives shaded in red have been covered in the Spring term.

Objectives shaded in blue have been covered in the Summer term.

#### 3-4 Year olds (Nursery School)

Objectives shaded in pink have been covered in the Autumn term.

Objectives shaded in yellow have been covered in the Spring term.

Objectives shaded in green have been covered in the Summer term.

#### Indicators for Development Matters

Emerging- broken line .....

Developing – put a line underneath indicators

Confident- highlight over indicators

### Planning

When planning for children in the nursery previous experience, individual needs, interests and prior knowledge will form the starting point. The learning potential of all experiences – planned or spontaneous must be recognised. There are three stages to our planning:

#### Long Term Planning

This is the framework that gives structure and coherence to our curriculum, it is based on the general needs of the children and ensures that our aims and curriculum statement are met. Through our long term planning we ensure that all areas of the curriculum are experienced and children enabled to make as much progress as possible towards the early learning goals by the time they leave us.

#### **Our long term planning includes:**

- Policy statements, for the seven areas of learning, which we will deliver through a broad range of activities and experiences offering a balance of learning opportunities across both prime and specific areas
- Policy statements on equal opportunities, induction procedures and on teaching and learning
- The organisation of the learning environment which supports children's independence and autonomy
- Rotas and routines including the daily routine for children
- Some yearly fixed events where particular curricular emphasis occurs, for example, though personal, social and emotional development is very

important at all times, in the first half of the Autumn term, it will be a high priority while the children are settling in.

### **Medium Term Planning – Avenues of Exploration**

These enable the children to explore in depth avenues of exploration, based on the children's interests, rather than undertaking a superficial range of experiences through activities. Medium term plans result from room and whole school discussions.

#### **Medium term plans may include**

- Identification of proposed learning objectives/intentions to be covered
- Flow chart identifying possible learning pathways
- Individual education plans where appropriate
- On-going observation and evaluation through documentation

### **Short Term Planning**

This ensures a responsive approach to the curriculum for the individual child based on observation of his/her needs and interests. It provides continuity and extension through evaluating the success of the activities offered which inform the planning for the next day

#### **Short term plans will include**

- Weekly, daily plans identifying learning objectives/intentions, observations, assessment possibilities, talking points and adult involvement, in the moment observations;
- Structured planning for story time
- Specific activity sheets for observed sessions and students

When planning staff ensure a balanced curriculum covering all areas of learning. The time given to each area of learning may vary according to individual/group needs.

### **Why Plan?**

#### **To ensure all children:**

- can operate as self motivated, independent learners;
- gain relevant meaningful experiences;
- are offered equal opportunities and enabled to experience a broad curriculum which meets their developmental needs;
- have access to adult time and support.

**To ensure that adults:**

- understand the learning potential of all experiences in and out of doors, and are aware of ways of extending children's learning;
- can respond effectively to spontaneous interests and happenings;
- have time to observe and to work in depth with children;
- work consistently as a team and can evaluate their practice.

**To ensure that provision in and out of doors:**

- is of a high quality and gives children access to cross curricular learning;
- is well organised and maintained;
- is regularly reviewed;
- is developed in response to observed needs and community needs.

The seven areas of learning and development shapes the educational programmes. Focus is on the prime areas while the specific areas are interconnected to ignite curiosity, enthusiasm, learning, forming relationships and thriving.

**Educational Programmes**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

**Physical Development**

**Communication and Language**

**Literacy**

**Mathematics**

**Understanding the World**

**Expressive Arts and Design**

**EYFS Statutory Educational Programme:** The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, staff will build children's language effectively. To promote the development of spoken language we use the WELLCOMM programme to develop children speaking skills.

# Breareley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### Communication and Language

##### Birth-Three year olds

- Understand simple questions about 'who', 'what' and 'where' (but generally not 'why').
- Turn towards familiar sounds. They are also startled by loud noises and accurately locate the source of a familiar person's voice, such as their key person or a parent.
- Gaze at faces, copying facial expressions and movements like sticking out their tongue. Make eye contact for longer periods.
- Watch someone's face as they talk.
- Copy what adults do, taking 'turns' in conversations (through babbling) and activities. Try to copy adult speech and lip movements.
- Enjoy singing, music and toys that make sounds.
- Recognise and are calmed by a familiar and friendly voice.
- Listen and respond to a simple instruction.
- Make sounds to get attention in different ways (for example, crying when hungry or unhappy, making gurgling sounds, laughing, cooing or babbling).
- Babble, using sounds like 'ba- ba', 'mamama'.
- Use gestures like waving and pointing to communicate.
- Reach or point to something they want while making sounds.
- Copy your gestures and words.
- Constantly babble and use single words during play.
- Use intonation, pitch and changing volume when 'talking'.
- Understand single words in context – 'cup', 'milk', 'daddy'.
- Understand frequently used words such as 'all gone', 'no' and 'bye-bye'.
- Understand simple instructions like "give to mummy" or "stop".
- Recognise and point to objects if asked about them.
- Generally, focus on an activity of their own choice and find it difficult to be directed by an adult.
- Listen to other people's talk with interest, but can easily be distracted by other things.
- Can become frustrated when they can't make themselves understood.
- Start to say how they are feeling, using words as well as actions.
- Start to develop conversation, often jumping from topic to topic.
- Develop pretend play: 'putting the baby to sleep' or 'driving the car to the shops'.
- Use the speech sounds p, b, m, w.
- Are usually still learning to pronounce:
  - l/r/w/y, f/th, s/sh/ch/dz/j, multi-syllabic words such as 'banana' and 'computer'
- Listen to simple stories and understand what is happening, with the help of the pictures.
- Identify familiar objects and properties for practitioners when they are described. For example: 'Katie's coat', 'blue car', 'shiny apple'.
- Understand and act on longer sentences like 'make teddy jump' or 'find your coat'.

##### 3-4 year olds

- Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.
- Can find it difficult to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.
- Use a wider range of vocabulary.
- Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as "Get your coat and wait at the door".
- Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"
- Sing a large repertoire of songs.
- Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.
- Develop their communication, but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'.

# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

- May have problems saying: some sounds: r, j, th, ch, and sh and multisyllabic words such as 'pterodactyl', 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus'
- Use longer sentences of four to six words.
- Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
- Can start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns.
- Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver."

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

##### Birth-Three year olds

- Find ways to calm themselves, through being calmed and comforted by their key person
- Establish their sense of self.
- Express preferences and decisions. They also try new things and start establishing their autonomy.
- Engage with others through gestures, gaze and talk.
- Use that engagement to achieve a goal. For example, gesture towards their cup to say they want a drink.
- Find ways of managing transitions, for example from their parent to their key person.
- Thrive as they develop self-assurance.
- Look back as they crawl or walk away from their key person. Look for clues about how to respond to something interesting.
- Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, because they know their key person is nearby and available.
- Feel confident when taken out around the local neighbourhood, and enjoy exploring new places with their key person.
- Feel strong enough to express a range of emotions.
- Grow in independence, rejecting help ("me do it"). Sometimes this leads to feelings of frustration and tantrums.
- Begin to show 'effortful control'. For example, waiting for a turn and resisting the strong impulse to grab what they want or push their way to the front.
- Be increasingly able to talk about and manage their emotions
- Notice and ask questions about differences, such as skin colour, types of hair, gender, special needs and disabilities, and so on.
- Develop friendships with other children
- Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories.
- Are talking about their feelings in more elaborated ways: "I'm sad because..." or "I love it when ...".

Is starting to indicate and communicates need for potty or toilet.

Feeds themselves and drinks from a cup, helps with clothing

# Breareley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

### 3-4 year olds

- Begin to understand how others might be feeling.
- Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them.
- Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.
- Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting.
- Show more confidence in new social situations.
- Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas.
- Help to find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game, and suggesting other ideas.
- Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important.
- Do not always need an adult to remind them of a rule.
- Develop appropriate ways of being assertive.
- Talk with others to solve conflicts.
- Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### **Physical Development**

#### **Birth-Three year olds**

- Learn to use the toilet with help, and then independently.
- Lift their head while lying on their front.
- Push their chest up with straight arms.
- Roll over: from front to back, then back to front.
- Enjoy moving when outdoors and inside.
- Sit without support.
- Begin to crawl in different ways and directions.
- Pull themselves upright and bouncing in preparation for walking.
- Reach out for objects as co-ordination develops.
- Eat finger food and develop likes and dislikes.
- Try a wider range of foods with different tastes and textures.
- Lift objects up to suck them.
- Pass things from one hand to the other. Let go of things and hands them to another person, or drops them.
- Gradually gain control of their whole body through continual practice of large movements, such as waving, kicking, rolling, crawling and walking.
- Clap and stamp to music.
- Fit themselves into spaces, like tunnels, dens and large boxes, and move around in them.
- Enjoy starting to kick, throw and catch balls.
- Build independently with a range of appropriate resources.
- Begin to walk independently – choosing appropriate props to support at first.
- Walk, run, jump and climb – and start to use the stairs independently
- Spin, roll and independently use ropes and swings (for example, tyre swings).
- Sit on a push-along wheeled toy, use a scooter or ride a tricycle.
- Develop manipulation and control.
- Explore different materials and tools.
- Use large and small motor skills to do things independently, for example manage buttons and zips, and pour drinks.
- Show an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress.

### 3-4 year olds



# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

- Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and tooth brushing.
- Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills.
- Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet.
- Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues.
- Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.
- Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams.
- Are increasingly able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm.
- 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.
- Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel.
- Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.
- Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.
- Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.
- Start to eat independently and learning how to use a knife and fork.
- Show a preference for a dominant hand.
- Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips.
- Be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g. brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands thoroughly.

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### Literacy

##### **Birth-Three year olds**

- Enjoy songs and rhymes, tuning in and paying attention.
- Join in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo.
- Say some of the words in songs and rhymes.
- Copy finger movements and other gestures.
- Sing songs and say rhymes independently, for example, singing whilst playing.
- Enjoy sharing books with an adult.
- Pay attention and responds to the pictures or the words.
- Have favourite books and seeks them out, to share with an adult, with another child, or to look at alone.
- Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories.
- Ask questions about the book. Makes comments and shares their own ideas.
- Develop play around favourite stories using props.
- Notice some print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo.
- Enjoy drawing freely.
- Add some marks to their drawings, which they give meaning to. For example: "That says mummy."
- Make marks on their picture to stand for their name.

##### **3-4 year olds**

- Understand the five key concepts about print:
  - print has meaning
  - print can have different purposes
  - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
  - the names of the different parts of a book
  - page sequencing
- Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can:
  - spot and suggest rhymes
  - count or clap syllables in a word
  - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother

# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary
- Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; write 'm' for mummy.
- Write some or all of their name.  
-Write some letters accurately.

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### Mathematics

##### Birth-Three year olds

- Combine objects like stacking blocks and cups. Put objects inside others and take them out again.
- Take part in finger rhymes with numbers.
- React to changes of amount in a group of up to three items.
- Compare amounts, saying 'lots', 'more' or 'same'.
- Counting-like behaviour, such as making sounds, pointing or saying some numbers in sequence.
- Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers - '1-2-3-5.'
- Climb and squeezing selves into different types of spaces.
- Build with a range of resources.
- Complete inset puzzles.
- Compare sizes, weights etc. using gesture and language - 'bigger/little/smaller', 'high/low', 'tall', 'heavy'.
- Notice patterns and arrange things in patterns

##### 3-4 year olds

- Fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').
- Recite numbers past 5.
- Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.
- Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
- Show 'finger numbers' up to 5.
- Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5.
- Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals.
- Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5.
- Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'.
- Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'.
- Understand position through words alone – for example, "The bag is under the table," – with no pointing.
- Describe a familiar route.
- Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'.
- Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity
- Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof etc.
- Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle etc.

# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

- Talk about and identifies the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs' etc.
- Extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf.
- Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.
- Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...'

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### Understanding of the World

##### Birth-Three year olds

- Repeat actions that have an effect.
- Explore materials with different properties.
- Explore natural materials, indoors and outside.
- Explore and respond to different natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.
- Make connections between the features of their family and other families.
- Notice differences between people.

##### • 3-4 year olds

- Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.
- Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.
- Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history
- Show interest in different occupations.
- Explore how things work.
- Plant seeds and care for growing plants.
- Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.
- Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.
- Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.
- Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.
- Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.
- Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

### Development Matters/Learning Intentions

#### Expressive Arts and Design

##### Birth-Three year olds

- Show attention to sounds and music.
- Respond emotionally and physically to music when it changes.
- Move and dance to music.
- Anticipate phrases and actions in rhymes and songs, like 'Peepo'.
- Explore their voices and enjoy making sounds.
- Join in with songs and rhymes, making some sounds.
- Make rhythmical and repetitive sounds.
- Explore a range of sound-makers and instruments and play them in different ways.
- Notice patterns with strong contrasts and be attracted by patterns resembling the human face.
- Start to make marks intentionally.
- Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools.
- Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make.
- Enjoy and take part in action songs, such as 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.
- Start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object represents another. For example, a child holds a wooden block to her ear and pretends it's a phone.
- Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them.
- Manipulate and play with different materials.
- Use their imagination as they consider what they can do with different materials.
- Make simple models which express their ideas.

##### • 3-4 year olds

- Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar.
- Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses etc.
- Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park.
- Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
- Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.
- Join different materials and explore different textures.
- Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects.
- Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
- Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises.
- Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc

# Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

- Explore colour and colour-mixing
- Listen with increased attention to sounds.
- Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.
- Remember and sing entire songs.
- Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').
- Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.
- Create their own songs, or improvise a song around one they know.
- Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.

### **The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning**

In planning and guiding what children learn, staff must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

**playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

**active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

**creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

### **Playing and Exploring**

#### **Children will be learning to:**

Realise that their actions have an effect on the world, so they want to keep repeating them.

Plan and think ahead about how they will explore or play with objects

Guide their own thinking and actions by referring to visual aids or by talking to themselves while playing. For example, a child doing a jigsaw might whisper under their breath: "Where does that one go? – I need to find the big horse next."

Make independent choices.

Bring their own interests and fascinations into early years settings. This helps them to develop their learning.

Respond to new experiences that you bring to their attention

### **Active learning**

# Breareley Nursery School 2025- 2026

## Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds

### **Children will be learning to:**

Participate in routines, such as going to their cot or mat when they want to sleep.

Begin to predict sequences because they know routines. For example, they may anticipate lunch when they see the table being set, or get their coat when the door to the outdoor area opens

Show goal-directed behaviour. For example, babies may pull themselves up by using the edges of a low table to reach for a toy on top of the table. Toddlers might turn a storage box upside down so they can stand on it and reach up for an object.

Begin to correct their mistakes themselves. For example, instead of using increasing force to push a puzzle piece into the slot, they try another piece to see if it will fit.

Keep on trying when things are difficult

### **Creating and thinking critically**

### **Children will be learning to:**

Take part in simple pretend play. For example, they might use an object like a brush to pretend to brush their hair, or 'drink' from a pretend cup.

Sort materials. For example, at tidy-up time, children know how to put different construction materials in separate baskets

Review their progress as they try to achieve a goal. Check how well they are doing.

Solve real problems: for example, to share nine strawberries between three friends, they might put one in front of each, then a second, and finally a third. Finally, they might check at the end that everyone has the same number of strawberries

Use pretend play to think beyond the 'here and now' and to understand another perspective. For example, a child role-playing the billy goats gruff might suggest that "Maybe the troll is lonely and hungry? That's why he is fierce."

Know more, so feel confident about coming up with their own ideas.

Make more links between those ideas.

Concentrate on achieving something that's important to them. They are increasingly able to control their attention and ignore distractions.

Brearley Nursery School 2025- 2026

Planning Book for Birth to 3 year olds and 3-4 year olds