

Early Years Core Vocabulary

The Early Years curriculum and the curriculum for children from Year 1 are very different and follow a different structure. However, it is important that children have a core vocabulary to prepare them for the transition.

We have identified the core vocabulary we believe children should have retained at the end of Early Years. This vocabulary is taught alongside the pre-requisite skills and core knowledge we have identified and is the basis of our direct teaching and learning environment where children can practice using the vocabulary and apply it in their play.

This ensures that children join Year 1 with the vocabulary they need to be able to access the content of the year 1 curriculum.

Nursery Core Vocabulary

MATHS	ENGLISH	KUW/CD	OTHER
count	book	cow	Hello
number names to ten	front/back cover	duck	Bye
big	page	sheep	please
small	turn	horse	thank you
long	pencil	pig	happy
short	fast	cat	sad
heavy	slow	dog	angry
light	loud	lion	excited
empty	quiet	tiger	toilet
full	rhyme	giraffe	water
circle	character	monkey	red
square	event	elephant	orange
triangle	setting	crocodile	yellow
rectangle	rhyme	fish	green
side	sound	octopus	blue
corner	blend	whale	Purple
straight	segment	dolphin	pink
curvy		dinosaur	black
		car	white
		truck	water
		lorry	sand
		van	playdough
		bus	inside
		train	outside
		aeroplane	
		helicopter	
		police car	
		ambulance	
		fire engine	
		family	
		mum	
		dad	
		brother	
		sister	
		house	
		hair	
		head	
		eyes	
		nose	
		mouth	
		ears	
		arms	
		legs	
		hands	
		feet	
		fingers	
		toes	

Early Years Core Vocabulary

Reception Core Vocabulary

MATHS	ENGLISH	UTW/EAD	GENERIC
addition	sentence	History: time	share
subtraction	full stop	new	you're welcome
doubling	capital letter	old	practise
halving	finger spaces	young	caring
add/plus	noun	before	concentrate
subtract/take away	adjective	after	proud
one more	verb	now	independent
one less	Grapheme	past	explore
subitise	Phoneme	present	feelings
number names 0-20	letter	future	worried
2D	beginning	similar/ similarities	angry
3D	middle	different/ differences	excited
Pyramid	end	first	kind
Sphere	blurb	then	calm
Cone	front cover	next	
Cube	fiction	finally	
Cuboid	non-fiction	4 seasons	
Cylinder	question	Biology: parts of the body	
properties	question mark	senses	
corner	author	investigate	
faces	illustrator	predict	
estimate		weather	
match		animals	
total		humans	
order		food	
sharing		drink	
equal		grow	
quick		move	
slow		light	
symmetry/symmetrical		dark	
pattern		birthday	
flat		alive	
curved		not alive	
compare		Physics: materials	
length		push	
wide		pull	
narrow		sound	
thick		magnets/magnetism	
thin		light	
balance		dark	
weight		shadows	
time		float/sink	
clock		freeze/melt	
morning		Geography: Gloucester	
afternoon		England	
evening		United Kingdom (UK)	
night		King Charles	
		London	
		school	
		home	
		hospital	
		town	
		holiday	
		world / Earth	
		map	
		country	
		Arctic/Antarctic	
		forest/woodland	
		jungle/rainforest	
		desert	
		ocean/sea	
		RE: Christian	
		Muslim	
		Judaism	
		Sikhism	
		Hinduism	
		Buddhism	