

6.8 The home learning environment

Policy statement

At Kamelia Kids we know ‘What parents do is more important than who parents are’ and they play a key role in children's learning (Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education Project -EPPSE, 2004). Parents and carers ‘are experts on their own children, and they are a child's first and enduring educators.’ (National Children’s Bureau -NCB, 2010).

We are committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure that children receive consistent support and opportunities to learn both at home and within our setting. We are here to support your child’s learning and to work alongside you as partners in their early years journey.

There has been an increased focus on the significant role parents and carers play in supporting learning at home. The home learning environment is a combination of the physical home and the positive relationships and talk within it, that support a child’s natural curiosity, learning and development. This includes opportunities to play, interact with books and objects, and the everyday experiences to help them make sense of their world. The important thing is that parents and carers engage with their child in activities and experiences they are interested in. Research has shown that the quality of the home learning environment is important for children, and this helps them to become good learners with better outcomes.

Aims

We aim to:

- Strengthen partnerships between the setting and families
- Encourage parents and carers to become actively involved in their child’s learning
- Support children’s communication and vocabulary
- Encourage a love of books, stories and rhymes.
- Develop early mathematical understanding through everyday objects and experiences.
- Ensure home learning is enjoyable and accessible.

Our Home Learning Hub:

- We have introduced a Home Learning Hub which is packed with many different resources in which can support learning at home, some of which include: Puzzles, Books, Painting equipment and building blocks. These resources also include different ways to scaffold the activity to include extra challenges.
- These are available for parents to take home to experience new toys/resources.

The Early Years Statutory Framework

- Whilst your child is at nursery, we provide meaningful opportunities for learning, development and exploration. Below, you will find examples of activities and experiences that you can enjoy with your child at home to support their learning

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across these areas. Please note that many activities naturally support more than one area of learning.

- Our home learning activities are designed to support and inspire families rather than create additional pressure. We recognise that every family is different, with varying circumstances, routines, cultures, languages and levels of available time. Families are encouraged to choose activities that work for them and their child. We also share additional ideas, activities and useful links through our **Kamelia Kids Parents' Facebook Group**.

Physical Skills:

- Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) on YouTube is popular for physical activity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3LPrl0v-w&list=PLyCLOPd4VxBuxu3sLztrvWFehzv-LnR2>
- Cosmic Kids Yoga - This is calming and relaxing but also helps to feel energised, the children enjoy this greatly and there are many sequences to choose from
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>
- Healthy dinner ideas -
https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/collections/healthy_recipes_for_kids

Personal, Social & Emotional Skills:

- Naming and validating emotions your child is feeling.
- Encouraging independence
- Turn-taking games

Communication and Language:

- Everyday talking to your child about what is happening/what they can see. Narrate the world.
- Reading stories with your child, pausing to see if they may fill in the gap for example: 'a mouse took a stroll through the deep, dark....'

Mathematics:

- Number Blocks - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths>
- Number recognition games - getting the children to begin recognising numbers 1 - 5. For children who can do this, they can begin to recognise numbers up to 10.
- When walking about count assorted colour cars, point out house numbers or bus numbers.

Literacy:

Oxford owl - useful website for online reading books and fun activities to do at home https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/?s=Progress&_post_types=find_a_book&_age_categories=age-3-4

Phonics - <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/readingschemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

- Practice picking up small objects with tongs or large tweezers.

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- Lace beads or cheerio onto a pipe cleaner.
- Finger drawing in sand, shaving foam or gloop.
- Draw what you see from your window or when you have been out on a walk.

Understanding the World:

- Freeze small toys in ice cube trays and try to help them escape.
- Collect items from a walk and make a nature picture/ collage.
- Science Experiments - simple Science Experiments. [70+ Easy Science Experiments Using Materials You Already Have](#)

Expressive Arts & Design:

- Make a bird feeder - pipe cleaner/ string and cheerio.
- Go on a scavenger hunt - a colour hunt, a shape hunt.

Recommendations:

The Government has published new guidance regarding children's use of televisions, tablets and other digital devices. At Kamelia Kids, we recognise the importance of supporting children to develop healthy and balanced relationships with technology from an early age.

The current guidance is:

- Under 2s: Avoiding screen time other than for shared activities that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- 2 to 5-year-olds: Trying to keep it to no more than one hour a day. Avoid at mealtimes and in the hour before bed.
- Content: Choosing slow-paced, age-appropriate content. Fast-paced, social media-style videos should be avoided for children.
- Co-viewing: Watching or using screens together - talking, asking questions and engaging with the content - is better for children's development than solo screen use.

Legal framework

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/screen-use>

Further guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a5f8e4fb00f3323bf1a23a1/EYFS_group_and_school_based_from_September_2026.pdf

Hungry Little Minds - a national campaign with ideas to support children's learning at home, or as part of everyday activities like catching the bus or doing the shopping.

[Hungry Little Minds - Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 - 5 \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#)

Early years resources for learning at home

[Early years resources for learning at home - BBC Bitesize](#)

Starting primary school

[Starting primary school - BBC Bitesize](#)

40+ Activities for Preschool at Home

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40+ Activities for Preschool at Home | The Stay-at-Home-Mom Survival Guide (thestay-at-home-momsurvivalguide.com)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f6753d1d3bf7f72361877f6/Improving_the_home_learning_environment.pdf