1–2 Years Curriculum Overview

Daisy & Poppy Rooms

At Auckland House Nursery, our 1–2 years curriculum is designed to support children as they develop their independence, communication, relationships and curiosity about the world around them.

Through carefully planned themes, books, songs, sensory experiences and play, children are encouraged to explore, communicate and build confidence at their own pace. Our curriculum follows the interests and developmental needs of our children while providing rich opportunities across all areas of the EYFS.

Our Curriculum Journey

September – All About Me

Book: *Guess How Much I Love You: I See Me!*

We begin the year by helping children develop a sense of themselves and the people around them. Children explore names, body parts, feelings, families and friendships.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Look at photographs and recognise themselves and familiar people.
- Explore mirrors and begin to recognise their own reflections.
- Sing songs using their names.
- Explore body parts through songs, movement and play.
- Celebrate Teddy Bear Day.

We support children through simple language, actions, visual and gestural prompts, while welcoming children's home languages, family photographs, songs and traditions.

October – Autumn

Book: *Peek-a-Boo Baby*

Children explore the sights, sounds, colours and textures of autumn through sensory play and outdoor experiences.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore pumpkins, autumn colours and crunchy leaves.
- Go on autumn walks.
- Create leaf prints.
- Explore Halloween through age-appropriate experiences.

Children can explore autumn materials at their own pace, with visual and physical demonstrations supporting vocabulary such as *pumpkin, orange, crunchy, leaf, brown* and *tree*.

November – Autumn

Book: *Now I See Autumn*

Our exploration of autumn continues with a particular focus on weather and seasonal changes.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore rain, puddles and wet textures.
- Splash in puddles and practise putting on wellies and boots.
- Listen to rain and explore different weather experiences.
- Learn about celebrations such as Bonfire Night and Diwali.

Visual cues, actions and sensory experiences support children's communication and participation.

December – Christmas

Book: *Dear Santa*

Children explore Christmas and winter celebrations through stories, music, sensory play and familiar festive experiences.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore wrapped presents and boxes.
- Play with bell instruments.
- Listen to Christmas songs and festive stories.
- Explore Christmas and Hanukah.

We recognise that every family celebrates differently and introduce music, clothing, decorations, stories and objects from a range of cultures.

January – Winter

Book: *Now I See Winter*

Children explore winter through sensory experiences, clothing, weather and the changes they can observe outdoors.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore warm and cold through sensory play.

- Explore winter clothing.
- Notice frost outdoors.
- Explore textures associated with winter.

Simple choices such as *"warm or cold?"* are supported through objects, gestures and familiar language.

February – Love

Book: *I Love You to the Moon and Back*

Children develop their understanding of relationships, kindness, care and friendship.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Develop relationships with others.
- Explore heart shapes.
- Experience sharing, turn-taking and kindness.
- Explore celebrations such as Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year.

We model gentle interactions and always respect children's individual preferences. Physical affection is never forced, and children are supported to express care in different ways.

March – Spring

Book: *Now I See Spring*

Children discover the changes that happen during spring and explore the natural world around them.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Look closely at insects and blossom outdoors.
- Explore small-world animals.
- Sing spring songs.
- Explore celebrations such as Ramadan.
- Experience soil, seeds, flowers and natural materials.

Children's home languages are valued, and spring festivals and traditions from different cultures are explored through music, food, objects and stories.

April – Easter & Spring

Book: *Noisy Farm*

Children explore farm animals, spring and Easter through stories, sensory play and small-world experiences.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore Easter stories.
- Engage in sensory and small-world play with farm animals and spring materials.
- Explore eggs, chicks, bunnies and other spring-related experiences.
- Learn about Easter celebrations.

Experiences are adapted for individual sensory needs, with visual and physical demonstrations supporting children's understanding.

May – Journeys

Book: *Peepo!*

Children begin to explore the idea of journeys, travel and the world beyond their immediate environment.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Watch vehicles.
- Explore trains, cars and buses.
- Create train journeys through role play and small-world play.
- Explore different vehicles and destinations.
- Develop simple journey language.

We also explore how families travel and introduce different forms of transport from around the world.

June – Food

Book: *Yummy Yucky*

Food provides wonderful opportunities for children to explore their senses, communicate preferences and develop positive experiences around eating.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore fruits.
- Taste different foods.
- Investigate likes and dislikes.
- Explore different tastes, smells, colours and textures.
- Develop vocabulary such as *taste*, *yummy*, *yuck*, *eat*, *hungry* and *drink*.

Real foods, photographs and gestures support communication and choice, while foods from different cultures are introduced positively and respectfully.

July – Summer & Seaside

Book: *Now I See Summer*

Children explore summer through water, sand, shells, creative experiences and seasonal changes.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore shells, sand and water.
- Explore summer weather.
- Develop language around *hot*, *sun*, *sand*, *shell*, *bucket* and *water*.
- Take part in summer arts and crafts.

Children can explore sensory materials in different ways, including using tools where they prefer not to touch materials directly.

August – Fantasy & Adventure

Book: *10 Little Dinosaurs*

We finish our curriculum journey with imagination, movement and adventure.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Explore dinosaur movements and sounds.
- Use dinosaur figures within small-world play.
- Explore sensory textures.
- Develop imaginative play.
- Use sounds and actions such as *stomp* and *roar*.

Movement experiences are adapted to meet individual needs, with alternatives provided for children who may not wish or be able to run, stomp or hide.

Supporting the Prime Areas of the EYFS

Throughout the year, our curriculum provides opportunities to develop:

Communication & Language

Children are supported to understand and use language through songs, rhymes, books, conversations, gestures, visual prompts and everyday experiences. Key vocabulary is repeated throughout the day to help children develop their understanding and communication.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Children develop relationships with familiar adults and other children while learning about themselves, their families, feelings, kindness, sharing and caring for others.

Physical Development

Children have opportunities to develop movement and coordination through songs, actions, sensory play, outdoor exploration, small-world play and everyday routines. Experiences are adapted to support individual physical needs.

Supporting Learning Across the EYFS

Our curriculum also provides rich opportunities for children to develop their wider learning.

Literacy is supported through daily stories, songs, rhymes, books and opportunities to explore pictures, sounds and familiar language.

Mathematics is introduced naturally through songs, movement, objects, simple choices, exploring size and quantity, and everyday routines.

Understanding the World develops as children explore seasons, weather, animals, food, transport, celebrations, nature and different cultures.

Expressive Arts & Design is encouraged through music, singing, movement, sensory experiences, creative activities, role play and small-world play.

Inclusion, SEND & EAL

Inclusion is an important part of our curriculum. Experiences are adapted so that every child can participate in a way that is appropriate for them.

We use:

- Visual and gestural prompts.
- Simple, repeated language.
- Objects, photographs and real experiences.
- Sensory alternatives and graduated experiences.
- Movement adaptations.
- Children's individual preferences and interests.
- Key vocabulary from children's home languages.

We work closely with families to understand each child's communication, culture, interests and individual needs. Families are invited to share photographs, songs, stories, traditions, clothing, music and objects that are meaningful to them.

Celebrating Every Family

Our curriculum recognises that every family is unique. Throughout the year, children encounter celebrations, traditions, music, foods, stories and experiences from different cultures.

We value children's home languages and encourage families to share important words, songs, greetings and traditions with us. This helps children see their own identity reflected in their nursery experience while developing curiosity and respect for others.

Working in Partnership with Families

Parents and carers are an important part of our curriculum. We welcome contributions from families and use children's interests, experiences and backgrounds to enrich our learning.

Families can help by sharing:

- Family photographs.
- Favourite songs and rhymes.
- Home-language words.
- Cultural traditions and celebrations.
- Special objects or clothing.
- Family journeys and experiences.
- Stories and books that are meaningful to them.

Our Aim

Our aim is to provide children aged 1–2 with a secure, stimulating and inclusive environment where they can **explore, communicate, develop relationships and grow in confidence**.

Through carefully chosen books, songs, sensory experiences and meaningful play, we give every child opportunities to develop at their own pace and build the foundations for their future learning.

Every pupil matters, every moment counts.