



## EAL (English Additional Language)

At Bright Eyes we value the contribution which ethnic minority children make through bringing their culture and language to enrich our nursery environment. Your child's culture and language will be reflected in our provision and practice through resources and learning opportunities. We believe our nursery is welcoming to all children and families and we will provide emotional and academic support where needed. We will ensure relationships are built with the family to identify cultural and religious beliefs.

We aim to provide the means for ethnic minority children to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and achieve their full academic potential. We will make every effort to enable children to interact socially and to ensure their wellbeing. We will seek to provide parents with clear information about the nursery and its procedures and to establish mutual respect for culture and values.

Your child's key person will regularly assess each child for their cognitive level and linguistic repertoire, using the birth to 5 matters and ESCAL which we source from our local authority. Room transitions and transitions to school will be thorough and information will be shared where needed.

Our senco is aware of all children with EAL in the setting and will regularly check in with key persons to discuss progress. A speech and language referral will only be made if the child is working below in Communication & Language, in both English and their native language. Parents will be informed of this each step of the way.

Practitioners are aware that learning an additional language is a long-term process. While social fluency may be acquired within two years, it may take children with EAL years to gain the skills and understanding to participate fully in an educational system, in-line with mother tongue speakers of English.

At Bright Eyes we believe that language learning is most successful, for both EAL speakers and early bilingual learners where:

- it is taught within the context of the EYFS curriculum
- oral language is central to all curriculum work.
- the informed contribution of parents to their children's education is seen as vital to the children's progress
- recognise the child's mother tongue - this doesn't mean they have "no" language, they have a different language/s;
- make your classroom socially and intellectually inclusive, valuing cultural differences and fostering a range of individual identities.
- boost the pupils' self-esteem - remember, they have the potential to become bilingual adults, but it takes time to become fluent in an additional language, with a good command of the range of language needed for academic success;
- Identifying pupils' strengths
- pupils from other language backgrounds have a wide variety of cultural, linguistic and educational experiences; see the cultural differences brought by the pupil to the class as a bonus and use this in your teaching.

## Teaching and learning strategies

- ensure that EAL pupils are set appropriate and challenging learning objectives; ensuring they have more time to process.
- talking about language and literacy with peers and adults is essential - it helps pupils to use their home language when talking about literacy, even when their goal is literacy in English;
- do not allow any racist comments or jokes to pass - these should be reported and dealt with according to the discipline policy;
- give newly arrived young children time to absorb English (there is a recognised "silent period" when children understand much more English than they use - this will pass if their self-confidence is maintained.
- group children - to ensure that EAL pupils hear good models of English, wherever possible.
- use collaborative learning techniques - encourage children to work together in pairs and small groups, to discuss their work and possibly produce a joint piece of work; this is a valuable strategy for promoting learning for EAL pupils. It is beneficial to allow EAL pupils to work together when possible, so that they can discuss their work in their mother tongue before using English.

Signed: Nursery Manager

Reviewed September 2025