The 7 areas of learning and development – a guide for parents
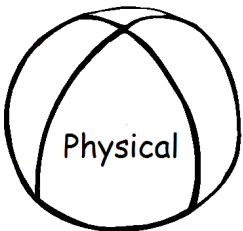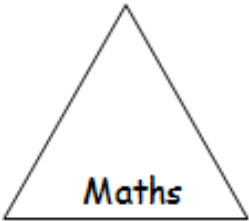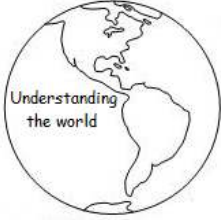
The 7 areas of learning are split into 2 parts –

1. The prime areas – which are for all children and will always be the main focus of our planning and activities for babies and children under 3

2. The specific areas – which are mostly used for the older children (over 3s) but are also relevant for younger children

These are the 3 prime areas –

Personal, social and emotional development	This area of learning and development relates to how your child… ➢ Is confident and self assured ➢ Manages their feelings and behaviour ➢ Makes friends ➢ Shares and takes turns
Physical development	This area of learning and development relates to how your child… ➢ Moves and uses gross motor skills ➢ Develops fine motor skills ➢ Learns about healthy living ➢ Manages self care independently
Communication and language	This area of learning and development relates to how your child… ➢ Listens and pays attention ➢ Understands what is being said ➢ Communicates with others ➢ Develops vocabulary and speech

These are the 4 specific areas –

Literacy	This area of learning and development relates to how your child…
	➢ Enjoys reading books
	➢ Likes making marks
	➢ Learns to write
	➢ Starts to explore phonics and letter sounds
Mathematics	This area of learning and development relates to how your child…
	➢ Learns about numbers and counting
	➢ Recognises the passing of time
	➢ Explores measures, capacity, space, shapes, opposites etc during play
Understanding the world	This area of learning and development relates to how your child…
	➢ Finds out about nature and the world around them
	➢ Talks about people and their local community and learns about similarities and differences
	➢ Learns to confidently use ICT equipment
Art and design	This area of learning and development relates to how your child…
	➢ Enjoys being creative
	➢ Sings, dances and makes music
	➢ Plays imaginatively
	➢ Uses colour to express themselves