



EYFS Progression of Play

Area of Play	Preschool (3-4 year olds)	Reception (4-5 year olds)
Role Play	* Simple pretending (“I’m cooking”) * Copying familiar home experiences * Short play episodes * Playing beside others	* More detailed storylines and characters * Collaborative play with rules and roles * Writing included naturally (menus, tickets, signs) * Problem-solving in play (“We need a map for the airport”)
Construction	* Stacking and exploring * Simple towers and roads * Trial and error building	* Planning structures before building * Creating detailed models * Working collaboratively * Adding labels or maps <i>Children begin thinking about balance, stability, design and problem solving</i>
Small World	* Moving figures around * Repeating familiar stories * Reenacting familiar routines	* Complex narratives * Sequencing events * Mixing imagination with real knowledge * Creating worlds and scenarios together <i>Children may retell stories or invent adventures.</i>
Creative	* Sensory exploration * Process-focused art * Experimenting with materials Children may begin to explain what they made	* More intentional creations * Planning designs * Combining materials independently * Representing ideas visually Children may explain what they made, why they chose materials and how to improve it



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Writing	* Scribbling * Making random marks * Pretend writing * Beginning to give meaning to their marks * Initial attempts at print letter formation * Prewriting shapes	* Beginning recognisable letters with lead in strokes * Writing for a purpose in play * Attempting sentences using finger spaces and full stops * Using phonics knowledge to write words * Confidently and consistently form prewriting shapes * Write name on work and creations
Maths	* Counting objects * Sorting colours/shapes * Filling containers	* Simple number problems * Counting with 1:1 correspondence for purpose * Recording numbers * Measuring and comparing * Using maths language independently * Recognising and manipulating 2D and 3D shapes
Reading	* Looking at pictures * Listening to stories * Beginning to make observations with adult guidance	* Retelling stories * Recognising familiar words * Discussing characters/events * Beginning independent reading * Making predictions about what they think might happen next. * Making connections between the events and characters in the story and their own life.
Sensory	* Repetitive exploration * Pouring, scooping, touching	* Investigating and experimenting * Adding challenges or goals * Using descriptive vocabulary
Outdoor	* Running, climbing, riding * Physical exploration	* Team games * Obstacle courses * Cooperative imaginative play * Problem-solving outdoors