What to Expect in the First Few Weeks of Preschool

□ Communication and Language

- Daily storytelling, songs, and rhyme build language confidence
- Open-ended questions encourage curiosity and independent thinking
- Children are supported to express ideas, listen to others, and follow instructions
- Adults model rich vocabulary in everyday interactions

Why? *Confident communication lays the foundation for learning and relationships*.

Physical Development

- Daily opportunities for movement: climbing, balancing, running
- Support for fine motor skills through tools, mark-making, and manipulatives
- Children are encouraged to manage personal hygiene and dress independently
- Activities that build coordination, strength, and spatial awareness

Why? *Physical confidence supports self-reliance and emotional regulation*.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

- Gentle settling-in routines with a trusted key person
- Support in building friendships and working through social challenges
- Emphasis on understanding and managing emotions
- Children are encouraged to express themselves and develop independence

Why? *Secure, self-aware children are more ready to learn and explore*.

Literacy

- Story-rich environments with daily stories and role play
- Children are invited to explore books independently
- Early mark-making is encouraged through drawing, painting, and tracing
- Adults scribe children's thoughts and stories to show that their words have meaning

Why? *A love of books and storytelling builds early literacy foundations*.

Mathematics

- Hands-on, playful number activities (e.g. counting, sorting, matching)
- Opportunities to explore shape, size, and pattern in everyday contexts
- Rhymes and games introduce number language and sequencing
- Children begin to use mathematical ideas to solve problems

Why? *Maths is embedded in meaningful, real-life play experiences*.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Open-ended creative materials always available for painting, building, role play
- Music, movement, and dance to explore rhythm, expression, and storytelling
- Opportunities to revisit creations and develop their ideas over time
- Adults join in pretend play to extend children's thinking

Why? *Creative expression fosters imagination, innovation, and identity*.

Understanding the World

- Children explore natural materials, seasons, and the local environment
- Play that connects to family life, culture, and community
- Use of simple technology, tools, and construction kits
- Encouragement to ask questions and make sense of their experiences

Why? *Children build knowledge through observation, play, and real-life connections*.