

Busy Learning Area

At Hounslow Town, we have a large room designated to the Busy Learning Area (BLA), which all children have access to throughout the week. This area provides the children with first hand multi-sensory experiences. It is viewed as an extension of the classroom and the learning opportunities provided allow for a more practical delivery of the curriculum. The Busy Learning Area is used to both support and extend children's learning.

The benefits are multifaceted, initially aiding children's transition from Reception to Year 1 but in addition provides an invaluable resource to support children with little or no English, SEND as well as the increasing number of new arrivals that have had no previous EYs education.

The Busy Learning Area has a wide range of open-ended learning activities, which are linked to what is taught in the classroom. Having the activities linked with classroom learning allows each child to deepen and clarify their understanding of different key concepts from the curriculum. Working in this way allows the children to be actively involved in their learning while having fun.



Every week in the BLA, the children have the opportunity to explore a wide variety activities and learning experiences through structured play. In these activities, all carefully planned by the Year 1 team, they lead their own learning. Each set of activities reflects the curriculum focus of the week from inside the classroom. This obvious link helps to enrich their learning and acts as a very suitable intervention and stimulus for children of different abilities to develop their language skills, cooperation and social skills, fine motor and creative skills. Those of lower ability develop their skills through engagement with practical activities, whilst middle ability children consolidate their knowledge and skills. Those of higher ability are challenged to develop their understanding even further through a range of problem solving activities and questioning. Underpinning everything, is the opportunity for each pupil to acquire new and essential language at a level, which suits his or her individual needs.

Throughout the school day children free flow between the classes and the BLA. BLA can accommodate up to 25 children, five from each class. Having children from all classes in the Busy Learning Area, helps develop not only their language skills, but also their social skills as they meet new faces as well as work with friends in other classes each week.

