

Introduction and Core Principles

Akrotiri Early Years Curriculum Statement



Akrotiri Early Years is a unique early years setting based on an RAF base in Cyprus. We understand the distinct needs of service families including mobility, deployments and regular transitions. Our curriculum is carefully designed to offer stability, connection and consistency for every child and family.

Children thrive when they feel safe, valued and understood. Our curriculum is grounded in warm relationships, responsive environments and rich, playful learning. Every child is supported to develop confidence, curiosity and a sense of belonging.

Our approach follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and draws on international research into early childhood. We are influenced by the principles of belonging, being and becoming, which are embedded across our provision:

Belonging means feeling connected and part of the community. This is especially important for children who may move frequently or experience change.

Being is about living in the moment, exploring, playing and developing friendships.

Becoming recognises each child's progress and growth as they develop their identity, skills and readiness for the next stage.

Our Guiding Principles and Curriculum Features



Our Guiding Principles

Respectful relationships built on trust and care
Positive partnerships with families
High expectations for every child
Inclusive practice that reflects and celebrates diversity
Environmental awareness and sustainability
Reflective practice and ongoing professional development
Strong teamwork and shared leadership

Key Curriculum Features

Holistic Development

Children's development is interconnected. We support social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth, taking into account the unique experiences of service families.

Learning Through Play

Play is central to how children learn. We provide open-ended, sensory and imaginative opportunities for children to explore, express themselves and develop new skills.

Active Learning

Children are encouraged to follow their interests, take risks in their learning and develop a strong sense of self and agency.

Assessment, Partnerships and Interactions



Assessment and Documentation

We observe and assess each child's development through a range of approaches:

Baseline assessment on entry

Daily snapshots and reflective notes

In-depth developmental observations

Partnership forms shared with families

Child voice through quotes and drawings

WellComm screening and 2-year checks

Transition reports and meetings

Families are included in the learning journey and are regularly invited to share insights and celebrate progress together.

Partnership with Families

We work closely with families to provide consistent care and understanding. We recognise the pressures and responsibilities of service life and offer flexible, supportive communication.

High-Quality Interactions

Our educators are skilled in building warm, responsive and sensitive relationships. These interactions help children feel safe, regulate their emotions and build strong foundations for learning.

Reflective Practice

We regularly reflect on our practice and make thoughtful changes to improve outcomes. Our team is committed to professional development and high-quality provision.

What Children Will Experience and Achieve



We focus on five broad learning outcomes which are visible across our everyday provision.

A strong sense of identity

Children develop self-esteem, confidence and a clear sense of who they are. We support them to build a positive self-image and understand what makes them unique.

Connection and contribution

Children feel part of their setting and community. They form strong relationships with others and develop a sense of responsibility and care for their environment.

Emotional and physical wellbeing

Children feel safe, supported and able to manage change and challenge. We promote resilience, emotional regulation and a strong foundation of mental and physical health.

Confidence and curiosity as learners

Children are supported to explore, experiment and develop their thinking. They are encouraged to take risks, try new things and develop problem-solving skills through meaningful play.

Effective communication

Children express themselves through language, movement, gesture and play. They learn to listen, respond and make sense of the world through a wide range of experiences.

Bringing Our Principles into Practice



Our curriculum is underpinned by the four themes of the EYFS:

A Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments and Learning and Development.

In our RAF setting we bring these themes to life in ways that support the unique experiences of our children and families.

We create calm, predictable routines that help children feel secure. Transitions are handled with care, whether a child is moving rooms, facing a family deployment or preparing to relocate to a new setting or school.

We focus on strong, consistent relationships between staff, children and families. This stability is key to helping children feel grounded and confident, especially during times of change.

Families are included in all aspects of their child's experience. We understand the pressures of service life and work in partnership to offer flexible, supportive communication and consistent care.

Our curriculum celebrates the rich backgrounds and lived experiences of RAF families. Through stories, celebrations, role play and conversations we help children connect their own lives with their learning.

Everything we do is aimed at helping children build resilience, develop empathy and feel that they truly belong.

Final Statement



At Akrotiri Early Years we are proud to offer a curriculum that reflects the unique needs of our service community. Our setting is a place where every child is valued, every voice is heard and every learning journey is respected.

We provide a calm and inspiring environment where children feel safe, confident and excited to explore. Our curriculum is flexible and responsive, allowing us to adapt to the individual needs of each child and to the changing circumstances of RAF family life.

We believe that strong relationships, high expectations and a focus on play-based learning create the best foundation for children to thrive.

Whether they are with us for a short time or a longer journey, we want every child to leave Akrotiri Early Years feeling secure, capable and ready for their next step.

We are committed to offering consistent, high-quality early education that supports families and helps children build skills for life. Our curriculum is not a one-size-fits-all approach but a thoughtful, living framework that evolves as we learn more about our children and their world.

At the heart of everything we do is a deep belief in the potential of every child.