



ECPLC & Curriculum for Wales

Approach / Curriculum Summary Sheet - Simple, Clear & Practical

★ How the Two Fit Together

ECPLC (Early Childhood Play, Learning and Care) and the **Curriculum for Wales** are designed to work as ONE continuous approach for children from **birth to age 5**.

- **ECPLC = HOW we support children** (our pedagogy, interactions, environment, routines)
- **Curriculum for Wales = WHAT children experience** (the Areas of Learning, Four Purposes, progression)

Together, they ensure children receive **high-quality, play-based, nurturing learning** from babies right through to school.



ECPLC (Birth to 5)

ECPLC guides our everyday practice across the whole nursery.

ECPLC focuses on:

- Warm, responsive **relationships**
- **Play** as the main way children learn
- **Wellbeing** and emotional security
- Enabling **environments** that invite exploration
- Understanding **developmental pathways**
- Adults who observe, listen and extend learning naturally
- **Inclusion** and belonging for every child

This is the foundation for everything we do.

Curriculum for Wales (Mainly 3–5)

When children reach 3 (especially in funded sessions), they begin to experience the **Curriculum for Wales**.

Curriculum for Wales gives us:

- **Four Purposes** – ambitious, capable, healthy, creative learners
- **Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)**
- **Statements of What Matters**
- **Principles of Progression**

It still expects learning to be **play-based, child-led and developmentally appropriate**.

How They Work Together

ECPLC + Curriculum for Wales = One Seamless Pathway

- ECPLC gives us the **approach**
- Curriculum for Wales gives us the **learning direction**

Example in practice:

A child building with blocks:

- **ECPLC:** adult supports language, turn-taking, exploration
- **Curriculum for Wales:** links to Maths, Language, Science & Technology, Expressive Arts – all through play

Nothing changes about our warm, playful approach. The curriculum simply helps us connect play to wider learning.

Babies & Toddlers (0–3)

Fully under **ECPLC:**

- Attachment and emotional security
- Sensory exploration

- Early communication
 - Physical development
 - Learning through routines
 - Repetition and predictability
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Pre-school (3–5)

A blend of **ECPLC + Curriculum for Wales**:

- Still child-led, still play-based
 - Still focused on wellbeing and relationships
 - Experiences link naturally to AoLEs
 - Opportunities for curiosity, problem-solving, creativity and independence
 - No formal teaching – learning happens through play
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What We Need to Remember

- ECPLC is our **everyday practice** across the whole nursery
 - Curriculum for Wales **builds on ECPLC** for 3–5s
 - Both frameworks value **play, relationships, wellbeing and child-centred learning**
 - We don't "teach lessons" – we create rich, meaningful play experiences
 - Our role is to **observe, tune in, scaffold and celebrate progress**
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One-Sentence Summary

"ECPLC is how we support children; the Curriculum for Wales is what we connect their play and learning to. Together they create a seamless, nurturing journey from birth to 5."