



Amethyst representing
creativity, intuition and
wisdom

Literacy in the Amethyst Pathway



Overview

Literacy in the Amethyst pathway reflects a 'Doing & Responding' curriculum, where children continue to learn through practical, engaging experiences while increasingly responding to adult direction, modelling and questioning.

This pathway bridges the gap between engagement-led learning and more structured subject learning. Children are supported to:

- Build foundations in speaking, listening, reading and writing
- Begin to respond to prompts and questions
- Develop early independence and readiness for learning

Literacy is driven by:

- Individual EHCP targets (central to all learning)
- An adapted literacy curriculum based on children's developmental stage
- Development of communication, reading and writing skills
- Preparation for functional communication and real-life experiences

Intent: What Literacy Should Look Like

Literacy in Amethyst is:

- Personalised and adapted to meet individual needs
- A balance of play-based learning and structured teaching
- Focused on developing communication, early reading and writing skills
- Designed to support children to respond, practise and apply learning

Children develop literacy through:

- Exposure to high-quality, motivating texts
- Strong focus on speaking and listening as the foundation for literacy
- Introduction of early vocabulary and sentence structure using Colourful Semantics
- Repetition and overlearning to secure understanding

Implementation: How Literacy is Delivered

1. Structured Literacy Lessons

- Three literacy lessons per week KS2, Two literacy lessons per week KS1

- Delivered in short, structured bursts to build readiness for learning
- Planned by the class teacher and adapted to individual levels

Lessons include:

- Clear structure and routine
- Visual supports (e.g. now/next, symbols)
- Adult modelling and guided practice

Children are supported to:

- Engage in short periods of adult-led learning
- Begin to respond to instructions and questions
- Develop readiness for more formal learning

2. Text-Based Learning

- Texts are used to support and engage learning
- Link to topics

Across the pathway:

- Children explore age-appropriate texts, adapted to meet need
- Exposure to stories, simple non-fiction and familiar texts

This supports:

- Engagement and enjoyment
- Development of comprehension
- Introduction to story structure and language

3. Communication Focus

Communication remains at the heart of literacy learning:

- Strong focus on speaking and listening opportunities
- Adults model language consistently
- Children are supported to:
 - Share ideas
 - Respond to questions
 - Use communication systems (AAC, gestures, speech)

Approaches include:

- Colourful Semantics to introduce sentence structure (who, doing, what, where)
- Repetition and modelling of key vocabulary
- Use of visuals and communication aids

4. Reading

Children develop reading through:

- Regular opportunities to read with an adult
- Exposure to a range of familiar and engaging texts
- Development of early skills: Engaging with sounds and percussion, rhythm & rhyme, oral segmenting, alliteration and oral blending
- Attention to stories
- Understanding meaning
- Early decoding where appropriate

Reading is:

- Embedded in daily routines
- Supported through structured and guided activities

5. Writing

Children are supported to develop writing through:

- Practical and sensory-based experiences
- Write Dance sessions
- Mark making and early writing development
- Modelled and scaffolded tasks

Children begin to:

- Represent ideas using marks, symbols or early writing
- Copy or trace where appropriate
- Develop confidence in recording ideas

6. Teaching Approaches

Literacy is delivered through a balanced approach:

- Practical and sensory learning opportunities
- Short bursts of adult-led teaching
- Play-based and exploratory experiences
- Targeted questioning and modelling

Learning remains:

- Engaging
- Accessible
- Meaningful

7. Adult Role in Literacy

Adults must:

- Follow the child and extend learning
- Model communication consistently
- Introduce early vocabulary and concepts
- Use questioning to support understanding and response
- Provide scaffolding and support as needed

Adults balance:

- Child-led learning
- Adult-guided teaching

Environment: Supporting Literacy Learning

The environment is:

- Structured, yet flexible and supportive
- Designed to promote engagement, communication and independence

Key features include:

- Clearly defined learning zones
- Small group teaching areas
- Access to books and literacy resources
- Visual supports and communication aids

The environment supports:

- Independent exploration

- Shared reading experiences
- Opportunities to practise communication skills

Preparation for Life

Literacy supports preparation for life through:

- Functional communication skills
- Understanding and responding to instructions
- Early independence in expressing needs and ideas

Impact: How Learning is Evidenced

Progress in literacy is seen through:

- Increased ability to respond to communication and teaching
- Development of early reading and writing skills
- Improved communication and interaction
- Greater independence and confidence

Learning is evidenced through:

- Photographs and observations on Tapestry
- Literacy learning journeys
- Recorded work (practical, pictorial or emerging written forms)
- First of the Month Books

Key Principles

- EHCP targets are central to all learning
- Communication underpins all literacy development
- Repetition and overlearning are essential
- Learning is engaging, practical and meaningful
- Focus on response, understanding and early independence

What You Should See in an Amethyst Classroom

- A balance of child-led and adult-guided literacy experiences

- Children engaged in listening, speaking, reading and early writing
- Short, structured literacy sessions
- Use of texts to support engagement and learning
- Colourful Semantics and communication strategies embedded throughout
- Opportunities for children to respond and communicate
- Growing confidence, participation and independence

Literacy in the Amethyst pathway supports children to move from engagement to responding, building the communication, reading and writing foundations needed for the next stage of their education and for life.