



Welcome to Cragside Church of England Primary school. This handout is to outline expectations for learning when your child joins our Little Stars class.

At this stage, children are just beginning their early learning journey. We focus on helping them feel safe, confident, and curious, rather than on formal learning.

### **Within the class your child is learning to:**

- Settle into a new environment and build trusting relationships with adults.
- Play alongside other children and begin to notice what others are doing.
- Communicate their needs using words, gestures, or sounds.
- Enjoy songs, rhymes, stories, and sensory experiences.
- Explore a range of toys and materials through hands-on play.
- Begin to follow simple routines, with lots of adult support.

### **You might see your child:**

- Using single words or short phrases (this develops at different speeds).
- Exploring materials rather than creating a finished “product.”
- Playing independently or alongside others rather than cooperatively.
- Expressing emotions strongly and needing help to manage them.
- Needing support with toileting, dressing, and transitions.

At this age, learning is about:

- **Feeling secure**
- **Building confidence**
- **Developing communication**
- **Learning through play**



There is **no expectation** for children to:

- Recognise letters or numbers
- Sit for long periods
- Share consistently
- Create planned artwork
- Be independent in self-care

All of these skills develop gradually as children move through Nursery.

**Our overall aim for rising three's is to help children:**

- Feel happy and safe in the setting
- Enjoy coming to school
- Begin to explore, communicate, and play
- Build strong foundations for Nursery learning