



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CURRICULUM MATTERS

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

Cambridge Early Years Aligned | 2026/2027 Academic Year

Official preschool curriculum, textbook, stationery, care-routine and learning-resources booklet for Creche, Playgroup, Foundation and Reception.

CARE

Safe routines

PLAY

Joyful discovery

CREATE

Art, music and movement

GROW

Primary readiness





Publication Information

Item	Standard
Document Title	ICC Curriculum Matters Early Years Foundation Programme 2026/2027
School	International Community College, Accra, Ghana
Academic Year	2026/2027
Term Structure	Michaelmas Lent Trinity
Programme Scope	Pre-Cambridge Crèche, Early Years 1 Playgroup, Early Years 2 Foundation and Early Years 3 Reception
Curriculum Basis	Cambridge Early Years, school readiness, ICC faith and values, creative expression, physical development, care routines and primary transition
Booklet Scope	Curriculum areas, daily routine, academic calendar summary, textbooks, stationery, care items, classroom resources, enrichment, safety, assessment and transition standards

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Publication Information	2
1. Early Years Foundation Programme Position	3
2. Cambridge Early Years Programme Alignment	3
3. 2026/2027 Academic Calendar Summary	3
4. Preschool Class Structure	5
5. Daily Preschool Routine	5
6. Assessment, Reporting and Learner Portfolios	6
7. Textbook and Resource Framework	7
8. Stationery, Care Items and Classroom Resource List	7
9. Subject-Specific Preschool Resources	9
10. Lunch, Health, Hygiene and Care Standards	9
11. Preschool Enrichment and After-School Programme	9
12. Preschool Pets and Nature Learning	10
13. Preschool Safety, Storage and Prohibited Items	11
14. Reception-to-Year 1 Transition Standard	11
15. Preschool Operations and Communication	11
16. Sources Consulted and Alignment Basis	11
Academic Calendar Summary - Back Page	13

CARE

PLAY

CREATE

GROW

READY



1. Early Years Foundation Programme Position

International Community College Early Years Foundation Programme provides a safe, joyful and structured preschool pathway for early care, play-based learning, language growth, confidence, movement, creativity, values and readiness for Cambridge Primary.

The programme combines Cambridge Early Years principles with ICC preschool enrichment. Learning is active, practical, language-rich, caring and developmentally appropriate. Play, songs, stories, movement, art, discovery, guided routines and meaningful adult interaction form the foundation for early childhood growth.

Foundation Area	Preschool Outcome
Language and Communication	Listening, speaking, vocabulary, storytelling, phonics readiness, early reading interest and confidence in expression.
Cognitive Development	Problem-solving, sorting, matching, memory, early reasoning, number sense and curiosity.
Physical Development	Gross motor coordination, fine motor control, movement confidence, self-care and healthy routines.
Social and Emotional Development	Friendship, sharing, independence, self-regulation, confidence, kindness and safe classroom behaviour.
Creative Expression	Drawing, painting, modelling, music, dance, drama, sculpture, imaginative play and portfolio evidence.
Understanding the World	Nature, family, community, Ghanaian culture, simple science, technology awareness and discovery learning.
Primary Readiness	Attention span, routines, pencil control, early literacy, early numeracy, confidence and readiness for Year 1.

2. Cambridge Early Years Programme Alignment

Cambridge Early Years is the first stage of the Cambridge Pathway for ages 3 to 6. The programme follows a holistic approach to early childhood development and supports movement from preschool into Cambridge Primary or another primary programme.

ICC preschool structure applies as follows: Pre-Cambridge Crèche serves ages 6 months to 2 years; Early Years 1 Playgroup serves ages 2-3 years; Early Years 2 Foundation serves ages 3-4 years; Early Years 3 Reception serves ages 4-5 years.

Cambridge Area	ICC Preschool Application
Communication and Literacy	Story time, listening games, songs, oral language, picture talk, phonics readiness, mark-making, handwriting readiness and early book handling.
Creative Expression	Art, sculpture, craft, clay, dance, role play, drama, music, rhythm and imaginative design.
Mathematics	Counting, comparing, sorting, matching, shapes, patterns, measures, number rhymes, games and practical problem-solving.
Physical Development	Outdoor play, climbing, balancing, swimming readiness, dance, PE, fine motor activities and healthy routines.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Settling-in, confidence, friendship, emotions, sharing, rules, independence, kindness and faith-informed values.
Understanding the World	Nature walks, pets, plants, weather, family, community, Ghanaian culture, simple technology, cooking, science and everyday discovery.

Cambridge resource structure

Stage	Typical Age	Recommended Cambridge Resource Structure
Pre-Cambridge Crèche	Under 3	Care-based developmental resources, sensory toys, picture books, songs, movement and hygiene routines.
Cambridge Early Years 1	3-4	Learner Books 1A, 1B and 1C, supported by Cambridge Early Years Teaching Resource 1.
Cambridge Early Years 2	4-5	Communication and Language, Mathematics and Let's Explore Learner Books 2A, 2B and 2C, supported by Teaching Resource 2.
Cambridge Early Years 3	5-6	Communication and Language, Mathematics and Let's Explore Learner Books 3A, 3B and 3C, supported by Teaching Resource 3 and primary-transition evidence.

3. 2026/2027 Academic Calendar Summary

Preschool curriculum pacing follows three school terms. Themes, routines, assessment observations, parent communication, care readiness and transition activities align with the full academic calendar.



Term	Dates	Early Years Focus
Michaelmas	1 September - 11 December 2026	Settling-in, baseline observation, hygiene routines, circle time, language immersion, early numeracy, creative work, gross motor development and first progress reporting.
Lent	5 January - 20 March 2027	Curriculum consolidation, STEAM Fair, practical discovery, cooking, art, nature exploration, social confidence, midyear progress review and resource replenishment.
Trinity	6 April - 26 June 2027	Transition readiness, Reception-to-Year 1 preparation, end-of-year portfolio review, graduation activities, final reports and promotion decisions.

Termly preschool planning standard

- Weekly plans include language, mathematics, creative expression, movement, understanding the world, values and care routines.
- Observation notes and learner portfolios are updated throughout each term.
- Stationery, hygiene items, art supplies and spare clothing checks are completed during reopening week.
- Reception readiness evidence includes language, pencil control, numeracy, independence, social confidence and primary-transition habits.



4. Preschool Class Structure

Class	Typical Age	Programme Role	Core Focus
Pre-Cambridge Crèche	6 months - 2 years	Pre-Cambridge early care and developmental preparation	Safety, bonding, sensory play, language exposure, movement, feeding, hygiene and rest routines.
Playgroup 1 -	2-3 years	Early Years 1 Playgroup	Communication, songs, story time, toilet training support, fine motor play, social routines and creative exploration.
Early Years 2 - Foundation	3-4 years	Early Years 2 Foundation	Communication and literacy, early mathematics, practical play, creative work, movement, confidence and care routines.
Early Years 3 - Reception	4-5 years	Early Years 3 Reception and Year 1 readiness	Early reading readiness, writing readiness, mathematical thinking, science curiosity, independence and primary transition.

Preschool subjects and enrichment areas

Learning Area	Preschool Content
Literacy / Communication	Speaking, listening, stories, songs, phonics readiness, letter sounds, handwriting readiness, book handling and vocabulary.
Numeracy / Mathematics	Counting, patterns, shapes, comparison, matching, sorting, measures, early addition language and practical number games.
Understanding the World / Science	Nature, plants, animals, water, weather, senses, family, community, Ghanaian culture, technology and simple experiments.
Culinary Arts	Food awareness, hygiene, simple recipes, healthy choices, measurement language and supervised practical participation.
Arts, Sculpture and Creative Expression	Painting, colouring, clay, collage, modelling, paper craft, music, rhythm, drama and dance.
Ethics and Bible Knowledge	Bible stories, songs, gratitude, kindness, honesty, respect, prayer routines and responsible behaviour.
Physical Education and Swimming	Movement, balancing, coordination, outdoor play, dance, games, water confidence and safety awareness.
Robotics / Early Technology	Pattern thinking, sequencing, age-appropriate coding toys, shapes, construction and guided digital exposure.

5. Daily Preschool Routine

A predictable daily routine supports confidence, safety, language development, self-regulation and smooth classroom movement.

Time	Activity	Programme Focus
7:30am	Teachers resume and classrooms prepared	Safety checks, learning areas, hygiene preparation and arrival readiness.
8:00am	Learner arrival and morning activities	Welcome routine, table-top play, puzzles, books, soft start and settling-in.
8:30am - 9:30am	Circle time from Monday to Thursday	Bible stories, songs, ethics, calendar, weather, language games and class discussion.
8:30am - 9:30am Fridays	Adventure walk, neighbourhood walk or climbing-wall activity	Observation, physical development, confidence, language and outdoor discovery.
9:30am - 10:00am	Snack time	Hygiene, independence, manners and healthy eating.
10:00am - 12:30pm	Class lessons and guided play	Communication, mathematics, creative expression, understanding the world and class activities.
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch	Food routines, social development, hygiene and care.
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Rest or nap time	Wellbeing, calm routines and recovery.
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Afternoon snack and pack-up	Hygiene, communication folders, backpack routine and dismissal readiness.
2:30pm - 3:30pm	After-school activity window	Ballet, swimming, clay and pottery, football, performing arts, music or age-approved enrichment.

6. Assessment, Reporting and Learner Portfolios

Early Years assessment is observational, continuous and developmentally appropriate. Evidence is gathered from play, routines, class participation, drawings, speech, movement, social interaction, practical tasks and portfolio work.



Assessment Area	Evidence Standard
Communication and Literacy	Listening response, speech clarity, vocabulary, story retell, phonics awareness, mark-making, pencil grip and early writing.
Mathematics	Counting confidence, matching, sorting, shape recognition, pattern work, comparison, number language and problem-solving.
Physical Development	Balance, coordination, cutting control, drawing control, outdoor participation, water confidence and self-care.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Settling, sharing, friendship, independence, emotions, conduct, confidence and classroom routines.
Creative Expression	Art samples, sculpture, role play, music, dance, imagination, colour use and creative communication.
Understanding the World	Observation, curiosity, nature work, simple science, technology awareness, family and community themes.

Reporting cycle

- Baseline observations completed during Michaelmas reopening period.
- Progress reports prepared at each formal reporting point.
- Learning portfolios maintained with dated work samples and teacher observation notes.
- Reception transition records completed before movement to Year 1.
- Parent communication folders maintained for notices, artwork, routine updates and care information.



7. Textbook and Resource Framework

Preschool textbooks support play-based learning and guided practice. Books must remain age-appropriate, colourful, practical and aligned to class readiness. Heavy workbook pressure is avoided in Crèche and early Playgroup.

Core Cambridge Early Years resources

Class / Stage	Core Cambridge Resource	Use
Early Years 1 - Playgroup	Cambridge Early Years Learner's Books 1A, 1B and 1C; Cambridge Early Years Teaching Resource 1	Broad early learning through play, stories, songs, stickers, creative tasks and practical exploration.
Early Years 2 - Foundation	Communication and Language Learner's Books 2A-2C; Mathematics Learner's Books 2A-2C; Let's Explore Learner's Books 2A-2C; Teaching Resource 2	Language, mathematics, understanding the world, physical, personal, social and emotional development.
Early Years 3 - Reception	Communication and Language Learner's Books 3A-3C; Mathematics Learner's Books 3A-3C; Let's Explore Learner's Books 3A-3C; Teaching Resource 3	Year 1 readiness, independent routines, stronger language, early numeracy, transition confidence and portfolio evidence.

Class	Approved Books	Notes
Playgroup	Montessori Language Book 1 and 2; Montessori Number Workbook 1 and 2; Science and Nature Book 1 and 2; First Phonics 2; Nursery Numbers 1; First Numbers 2	Age-appropriate local-support books retained where editions are available and approved by the preschool office.
Foundation	Schofield and Sims Early Years books; Understanding the World: People; Literacy Letter Sounds; Literacy Writing Letters; Mathematics Counting; Mathematics Adding and Subtracting; Cambridge Primary Science Activity Book A where developmentally suitable	Structured readiness books used with teacher guidance and practical activities.
Reception	Schofield and Sims Number Book 1; Mathematics Space and Measure; Literacy Writing Words; Understanding the World: Technology; Jolly Phonics Book 2	Reception readiness books used for phonics, early writing, number, measure and primary transition.

Book procurement rules

- Final editions and ISBNs confirmed by the preschool office or school store before purchase.
- Damaged or outdated photocopies excluded from the official preschool booklist.
- Teacher-only Cambridge resources kept by the school and not placed on the individual learner purchase list.
- Books labelled clearly with learner name and class before reopening.

8. Stationery, Care Items and Classroom Resource List

Preschool resource readiness supports hygiene, routine, independence, art, language, discovery, rest time and safe daily care.

Daily backpack items

Item	Requirement
School bag	Small clean backpack with enough space for lunchbox, water bottle, communication folder and spare clothes.
Lunchbox and water bottle	Labelled lunchbox and labelled refillable water bottle.
Communication folder	Folder for notices, artwork, forms and teacher messages.
Change of clothes	Full labelled set: top, bottom, underwear, socks and plastic bag for wet clothing.
Comfort item	Small blanket or comfort item for rest time where needed.
Personal hygiene kit	Wipes, tissues and age-appropriate hand sanitizer where approved.
Sun hat / raincoat	Outdoor-play protection according to weather.
Diapers or pull-ups	Required for learners not fully toilet-trained; weekly supply kept at school.

Classroom and art supplies

Class	Required Supplies
Crèche	Diapers or pull-ups, wipes, tissues, spare clothes, bedding, feeding items where applicable, sensory-safe toys and labelled care items.
Playgroup	Plain writing books, jumbo tissues, crayons, large paper glue, poster colours, paintbrush pack, folders, baby wipes, playdough and mini backpack.



Class	Required Supplies
Foundation	Plain books, A1 books, D1 books, pencils, colour pencils, big paper glue, poster colours, paintbrush pack, two folders, playdough and wipes.
Reception	Plain books, A1 books, D1 books, pencils, colour pencils, big paper glue, poster colours, paintbrush pack, two folders, playdough, wipes and handwriting-readiness materials.

9. Subject-Specific Preschool Resources

Area	Resources
Communication and Literacy	Picture books, story cards, alphabet cards, phonics materials, puppets, rhymes, communication folder, mark-making books and large pencils.
Mathematics	Counting objects, number cards, shapes, beads, sorting trays, pattern blocks, measuring cups, puzzles and early number books.
Creative Expression	Crayons, colour pencils, washable markers, poster colours, paintbrushes, paper glue, paper, clay, playdough, smocks and display folders.
Culinary Arts	Aprons, child-safe utensils, measuring cups, mixing bowls, hygiene items and teacher-controlled kitchen equipment.
Physical Development	Balls, hoops, cones, mats, climbing equipment, beanbags, skipping ropes for older preschool and swimming items where applicable.
Understanding the World	Nature trays, magnifiers, safe science objects, plant pots, weather chart, classroom pets, observation sheets and simple technology toys.
Ethics and Bible Knowledge	Children's Bible stories, songs, visual cards, gratitude chart and values display.
Early Technology / Robotics	Sequencing cards, construction blocks, pattern toys, age-appropriate coding toys and school-controlled digital equipment.

Engineering Through Sculpture

Engineering Through Sculpture introduces preschool learners to balance, structure, shape, texture, stability, joining, modelling and design through safe, supervised creative work. Materials remain age-appropriate and classroom-controlled.

Resource	Use
Clay, playdough and soft modelling materials	Fine motor strength, shape formation, creativity and early structure thinking.
Cardboard, paper tubes and safe craft materials	Building, joining, balance and design exploration.
Large blocks and construction toys	Teamwork, spatial awareness, problem-solving and early engineering vocabulary.
Teacher-controlled scissors and tools	Only adult-supervised, blunt, child-safe tools used in class.
Portfolio photographs and displays	Evidence of process, creativity and practical thinking.

10. Lunch, Health, Hygiene and Care Standards

Preschool care standards support healthy routines, safety, independence, cleanliness, rest and emotional security throughout the school day.

Area	Standard
Lunch	Healthy packed lunch or school lunch subscription. Clearly labelled containers and age-appropriate portions.
Water	Labelled refillable water bottle brought daily. No glass bottles.
Snacks	Healthy snacks encouraged. Allergies and special dietary needs recorded by the school office.
Hygiene	Handwashing before meals, after toilet use, after outdoor play and after messy activities.
Rest	Personal bedding for nap time where applicable, sent home regularly for washing.
Toilet training	Supportive routines, spare clothing and respectful care for learners in training.
Medication	Only prescribed medication with written instructions and completed school medical form.
Illness	Unwell learners managed according to school health and safety procedures.

Lunch-day structure

Term	Preschool Lunch Planning Note
Michaelmas	Lunch routines introduced and monitored during settling-in.
Lent	Healthy eating, food hygiene and STEAM Fair food-learning links reinforced.
Trinity	Independent lunch routines strengthened for Reception transition and graduation term.

11. Preschool Enrichment and After-School Programme

Enrichment activities support confidence, movement, rhythm, creativity, teamwork and talent discovery. Activity enrolment follows age suitability, staffing, safety and term planning.



Activity	Applicable Group	Curriculum Value
Ballet	Preschool age-approved groups	Balance, rhythm, discipline, body control and confidence.
Swimming	Age-approved groups	Water confidence, physical development and safety awareness.
Clay and Pottery	Preschool groups	Fine motor strength, creativity, sculpture and sensory learning.
Football	Older preschool groups where approved	Movement, teamwork, coordination and confidence.
Performing Arts / Music	Preschool groups	Expression, listening, rhythm, memory, speech and stage confidence.
UCMAS	Reception only where approved	Number confidence, concentration and mental agility.

12. Preschool Pets and Nature Learning

Classroom pets and nature observation support curiosity, care, responsibility, language development and understanding the world. All animal contact remains supervised and hygiene-controlled.

Class	Pet / Nature Resource	Learning Purpose
Playgroup	quarium with fish	Observation, care routines, colour, movement, responsibility and calm classroom interest.
Reception	Rabbits and guinea pigs where approved	Gentle care, observation, feeding routines, responsibility, language and animal-safety awareness.
All preschool classes	Plants, weather chart, sensory garden or nature tray	Seasonal observation, vocabulary, science curiosity and care for living things.

Animal safety standard

- Animal handling only under adult supervision.
- Handwashing after animal contact or feeding observation.
- No unsupervised cages, glass tanks, food pellets or cleaning materials accessible to learners.
- Allergies and medical concerns recorded before direct contact.



13. Preschool Safety, Storage and Prohibited Items

All preschool materials must be safe, age-appropriate, labelled and stored correctly. Sharp items, chemicals, fragile materials and choking hazards remain school-controlled or excluded.

Category	Standard
Labelling	All bags, bottles, lunchboxes, bedding, clothing, books and folders clearly labelled.
Storage	Art supplies, wipes, spare clothing, diapers and bedding stored in assigned cubbies or class storage.
Messy play	Aprons or old shirts used for painting, clay, water play and craft activities.
Outdoor play	Sun hat, raincoat and suitable footwear supplied according to weather and class activity.
Digital devices	Personal devices only when requested by the school. Preschool learning technology remains guided and supervised.
Restricted items	Small choking hazards, sharp objects, glass bottles, jewellery, toys not requested by school, sweets, medication without forms and unsafe tools excluded.

14. Reception-to-Year 1 Transition Standard

Reception completes the Early Years Foundation Programme with clear readiness for Primary. Transition preparation focuses on confidence, routines, language, early reading, writing readiness, number sense, social independence and care for learning materials.

Transition Area	Reception Readiness Evidence
Language	Clear speech, listening response, vocabulary growth, story retell and class discussion participation.
Literacy	Book handling, phonics awareness, letter-sound knowledge, name writing, mark-making and early writing confidence.
Mathematics	Counting, number recognition, shape knowledge, pattern work, comparison, measures and simple problem-solving.
Physical readiness	Pencil grip, cutting control, dressing independence, toileting routines, balance and coordination.
Social readiness	Friendship, sharing, taking turns, confidence, emotional regulation and respect for routines.
Learning habits	Sitting for short tasks, following instructions, caring for books, packing items and completing guided work.
Portfolio	Samples of art, writing, mathematics, photographs, teacher observations and final transition summary.

15. Preschool Operations and Communication

Area	Standard
Preschool leadership	Preschool Principal and Preschool Coordinator guide daily standards, staff routines, parent communication and learner welfare.
Classroom team	Lead teachers, teaching assistants and support staff maintain safety, hygiene, learning routines and supervision.
Communication folder	Daily or weekly communication carried through the class folder, school platform or official notice channel.
Progress meetings	Scheduled parent-teacher conversations linked to observation records and reports.
Resource replenishment	Consumables replenished when depleted: wipes, tissues, diapers, spare clothes, glue, colours, paint, folders and bedding.
Uniform and appearance	Preschool uniform, PE/sportswear, swimming items and activity wear used according to school uniform guidance.

16. Sources Consulted and Alignment Basis

Source Area	Alignment Used
PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM MATTERS original school document	Existing ICC preschool structure, classes, routines, subjects, enrichment, pets, resources and textbook lists reviewed and upgraded for 2026/2027.
ICC 2026/2027 academic calendar structure	Michaelmas, Lent and Trinity term alignment applied across preschool planning, reporting and transition preparation.
Cambridge Early Years programme information	Age range, pathway position, holistic approach, play-based structure, bilingual support and progression into Cambridge Primary applied.
Cambridge Early Years curriculum information	Six curriculum areas and four development areas applied to class planning and resource standards.



Source Area	Alignment Used
Cambridge Early Years teaching and learning resources	Teaching resources, learner books, guided play, assessment observation and home-link activity structure applied.
Cambridge Early Years progress guidance	Continuous formative observation, developmental milestones and transition readiness reflected in assessment and reporting standards.
Early childhood health, safety and classroom practice standards	Hygiene, labelling, safe materials, adult supervision, allergy awareness, animal care and age-appropriate resource controls reflected.

Final Preschool Resource Standard

A complete preschool start-of-year pack contains the approved books, labelled personal items, daily backpack items, spare clothing, hygiene materials, art supplies, bedding where applicable, activity wear and class-specific resources required for the 2026/2027 Early Years Foundation Programme.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR SUMMARY

Early Years Foundation Programme | 2026/2027 Academic Year

A simple school-year summary for preschool planning, family routines, school events, term preparation and smooth transition into Cambridge Primary readiness.

MICHAELMAS TERM

1 Sept - 11 Dec 2026

Opening term, settling-in routines, baseline observation, parent orientation, midterm examination and Christmas programme.

LENT TERM

5 Jan - 20 Mar 2027

Curriculum consolidation, midterm assessment, practical learning, class projects and STEAM Fair.

TRINITY TERM

6 Apr - 26 Jun 2027

End-of-year assessments, Career/Africa Week, field learning, Our Day, Graduation and Awards.

ACADEMIC YEAR AT A GLANCE

Period	Dates	Focus
Michaelmas Term	1 Sept - 11 Dec 2026	Opening term, settling-in routines, baseline checks, parent orientation and Christmas programme.
Christmas Break	12 Dec 2026 - 4 Jan 2027	Christmas and New Year school holiday.
Lent Term	5 Jan - 20 Mar 2027	Curriculum consolidation, midterm assessment, practical learning and STEAM Fair.
Easter Break	21 Mar - 5 Apr 2027	Easter school holiday and preparation for Trinity Term.
Trinity Term	6 Apr - 26 Jun 2027	End-of-year assessments, Career/Africa Week, Our Day, Graduation and Awards.
Long Vacation	27 Jun - 31 Aug 2027	End of academic year break.

PRESCHOOL TERM HIGHLIGHTS

Michaelmas

Baseline observation, class routines, parent orientation, first reporting rhythm and family Christmas event.

Lent

Practical learning, early STEAM discovery, creative projects, midterm assessment and STEAM Fair.

Trinity

Primary readiness, end-of-year progress evidence, field learning, Our Day, Graduation and Awards.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND CALENDAR NOTES

● 21 Sept 2026	Founders Day	● 8 Mar 2027	Independence Day observed
● 4 Dec 2026	Farmers Day	● 3 May 2027	Workers Day observed
● 7 Jan 2027	Constitution Day	● Mar & May 2027	Eid dates - tentative

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