

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

The courtyard gives us opportunities to practice selecting and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps us to achieve a goal we have chosen, or one which is suggested to them. We develop our sense of responsibility and membership of a community in playing in larger groups and become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of our school setting.

**Communication and Language:**

In our courtyard, we are playing with children and adults we are not familiar with, so we spend a lot of time practicing how to talk to our friends, we learn how to express ourselves in ways that are understandable to others and listen to our friends.

**Physical Development:**

The courtyard gives us opportunities to use our gross motor skills in all sorts of different ways. We can climb up, over and under different obstacles, practice balancing and using different large muscle movements. We start taking part in some group activities which we make up for themselves, or in teams. We continue to develop our movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills. We collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks.

**As citizens of the UAE, we will:**

Show respect to those in different roles within our community and world around us.



GFS High Performance Learning

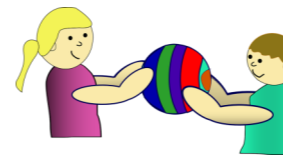


We are very proud to be one of the few schools in Dubai who have adopted HPL (High Performance Learning). As part of this, we will be focusing on the three Values, Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs) over the course of the year. These will be 'Hardworking Hedgehog', 'Empathetic Elephant' and 'Agile Alligator'. Over the course of the year, we explore each character in the classroom and then are able to show these qualities while learning in the courtyard. Practicing on the obstacle course, working collaboratively with our friends and thinking creatively.



**Risky play:**

Play in the courtyard allows us to play on a large scale which is not possible in the classroom. We interact with unfamiliar children and adults, and can practice working in a team on bigger projects, like in the construction area or sand pit. We also can practice regulating manageable quantities of fear, while more physical play allows us to practice dealing with anger and aggression.



**Reading:**

Reading opportunities are plentiful in our courtyards, from recipe books in our mud kitchens, labels in the water area and eventually, a proper reading area where we can sit to retell favourite stories and explore new ones.

**Writing:**

Mark making opportunities are given the space to be more gross motor and collaborative in nature. We use big easels to paint and draw against, and can explore a variety of different mediums to make marks with.

**Mathematics:**

The courtyard allows us to apply our learning in the more real life scenarios. Counting bricks in our houses, we create and describe different shapes, use positional language to describe where things are or how to navigate around the area.

**Understanding the World:**

Playing in the courtyard gives us a chance to interact with the natural world, using our hands to explore variety of natural materials, talk about what they see and explore how things work. We begin to understand that we need to respect and take care of the environment around us.

**Expressive Arts and Design:**

The courtyard gives us opportunity to work on grand scale art projects, use different materials and create expansive imaginary play with our friends.

GFS Curriculum Drivers linked to the National Agenda



Enterprise and Innovation	Eco and Environment	Inclusive Communities
In FSI, we will be learning how to be <b>enterprising children</b> over the course of the year.	We are all children who are <b>concerned with the environment</b> in FSI and will be starting to understand respect for this.	<b>As members of a community</b> , we will be mindful of our treatment of each other. We will talk about how to treat the community and environment with love and respect.

Opportunities for Enrichment

School	Home
Trips to places outside of school give us opportunities to explore unfamiliar places with familiar friends and teachers.	Trips to playgrounds, parks and indoor soft play areas give children more opportunities to develop their gross motor skills and practice interacting with unfamiliar peers in appropriate ways.