

Curriculum Guide

Early Years Foundation Stage
(Pre-Nursery, Nursery & Reception)



Guiding Statements

OUR MAXIM

Challenging Minds, Embracing Diversity, Building Character

OUR MISSION

We empower students to be global citizens with the 21st century skills they need for lifelong achievement and success. We cultivate their capacity for excellence, leadership, empathy and impact while embracing diversity in a safe and caring environment.



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Introduction to Learning

All learning opportunities at TSI are considered part of the curriculum. As a faculty, we have invested significant thought and preparation into designing the best possible education for our students.

The UK National Curriculum's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework provides the foundation of our education and formal curriculum for the Early Years (Pre-Nursery, Nursery, and Reception). At TSI, we have developed a bespoke Programme of Inquiry (POI) tailored specifically to our school. Each class engages in 4–6 units of inquiry throughout the year, focusing on both academic growth and character development.

This programme integrates all subject areas, enabling students to make deep and meaningful connections across their learning. It also fosters Global Citizenship and the development of 21st-century skills, and is guided by our mission:

We empower students to be global citizens with the 21st century skills they need for lifelong achievement and success. We cultivate their capacity for excellence, leadership, empathy and impact while embracing diversity in a safe and caring environment.

Our curriculum is rich in content and places strong emphasis on developing conceptual understanding through central ideas, key concepts, and lines of inquiry. All units are closely aligned with the UK National Curriculum and are carefully differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework outlines the requirements for children's learning and development, including the seven areas of learning, the early learning goals, and how progress is assessed, documented, and tracked. These areas support well-rounded development, balancing academic, social, physical, and creative growth. They are divided into three prime areas, which are essential for a child's overall development, and four specific areas, which build on and extend the prime areas:

Prime Areas of Learning

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas of Learning

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The EYFS is built upon four guiding principles:

- **A Unique Child** – All children are constantly learning; they are resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.
- **Positive Relationships** – All children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- **Enabling Environment** – When there is a strong partnership between teachers, parents, and caregivers, children develop well as their experiences respond to their individual needs.
- **Learning and Development** – The framework covers the education and care of all children.

The curriculum and its development are shared with parents during meetings at the beginning of each academic year. Regular conferences are also held to provide information about each child's progress and offer guidance on how parents can support learning at home. This comprehensive approach ensures that children are well-prepared for a smooth transition into Key Stage 1.



The Wider Curriculum



Service Learning

Service learning is at the heart of TSI's Mission and Values. Students are encouraged to participate in community service throughout their time at school, developing an understanding that service is fundamental to humanity and can positively impact the lives of others.

Students engage in service through the curriculum as well as through school-wide events, such as **Langar (Community Kitchen)** and **Chabeel Day**, which provide hands-on opportunities to practice compassion, teamwork, and empathy. The school also uses important cultural events, including **Loy Krathong, Songkran, Vaisakhi**, and other celebrations on the Sikh calendar, to further promote service learning and reinforce TSI's mission and values.

Through these experiences, students learn the importance of contributing to their community, respecting diversity, and taking meaningful action that reflects the core principles of TSI's educational philosophy.



Field Trips

Learning beyond the classroom is an integral part of the TSI curriculum, and all students have the opportunity to participate in field trips. Throughout the school year, these trips are carefully planned to complement the Programme of Inquiry, allowing students to explore real-world connections and deepen their understanding of the topics they study in class.

Students from Nursery to Year 5 participate in two field trips per year, while Year 6 students take part in one Residential Camp per year, providing immersive experiences that support both learning and personal development. For our Pre-Nursery students, we arrange visits from community helpers such as ambulance staff, dentists, and veterinarians, bringing learning about the wider world directly into the classroom.

These experiences help students build practical knowledge, develop social skills, and make meaningful connections between their learning and the world around them.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are widely offered at TSI, providing students with opportunities to learn and grow in a variety of contexts. Students in Years 1 to 6 are offered a combination of internal and external clubs, including Taekwondo, Football, Cooking, Chess, and many more, allowing them to explore new interests, develop skills, and build confidence beyond the classroom.

These activities also support the development of 21st-century skills, including teamwork, leadership, creativity, and problem-solving, helping students apply their learning in meaningful and practical ways.

STAR Learner Attributes



STAR LEARNERS

Successful
upportive

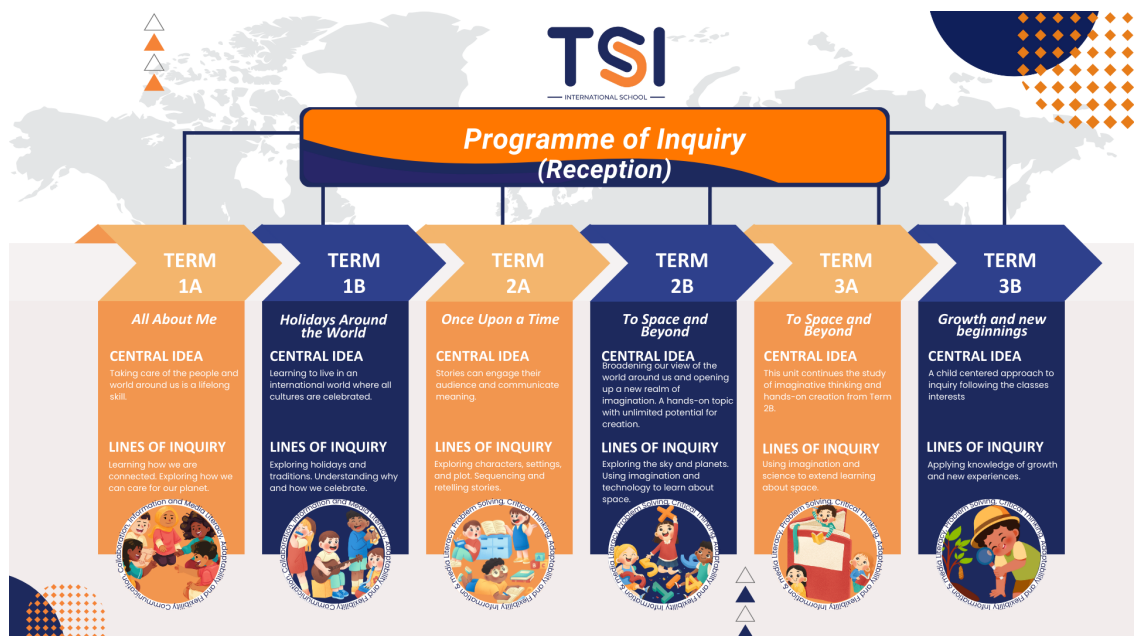
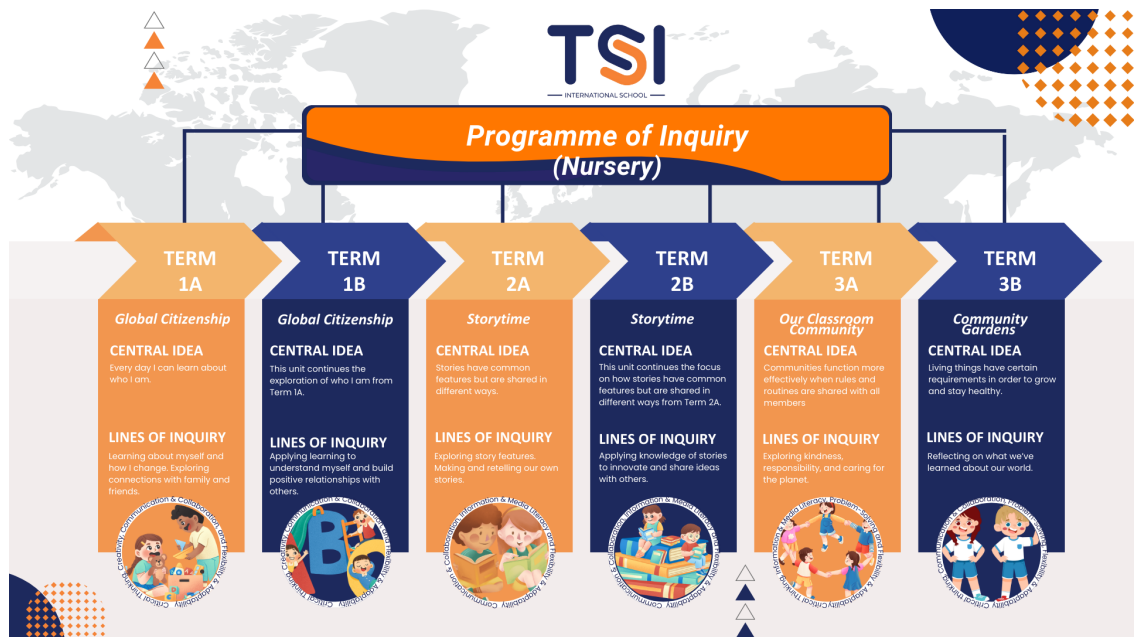
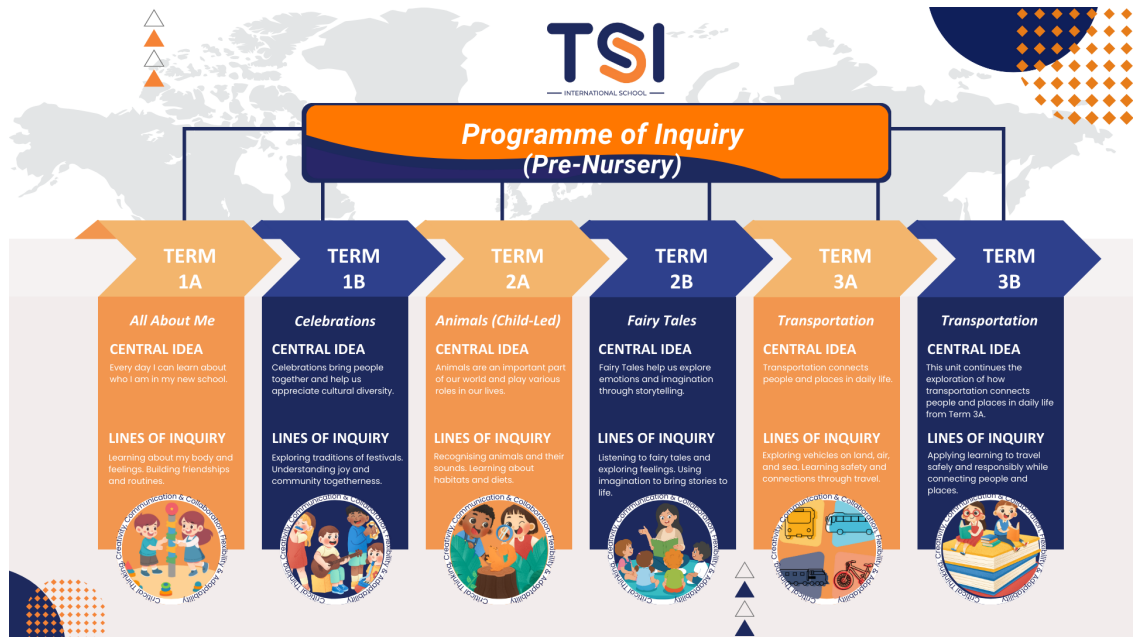
Thoughtful
eam Players

Awesome
ttitude

Respectful
esponsible



Programme of Inquiry





Early Years Foundation Stage

At TSI, we provide a well-balanced education that caters to the diverse backgrounds and abilities of all our students. We believe that every aspect of the school contributes to students' learning and development. Whether in their homeroom or specialist classrooms, outdoors during play, or swimming in the pool, children are continually learning, both academically and personally.

Early Years Foundation Stage (Pre-Nursery, Nursery, and Reception)

The Nursery and Reception programmes are based on the UK Curriculum's Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which sets standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five years. The EYFS recognises that children develop rapidly in the early years, and that experiences during this period have a significant impact on future learning and life opportunities. High-quality learning, combined with supportive parenting, lays the foundation for children to fully develop their abilities and talents.

Seven Areas of Learning and Development

The EYFS curriculum is structured around seven interconnected areas of learning and development, all of which are important. Three prime areas are particularly crucial for fostering curiosity, enthusiasm for learning, and the capacity to form relationships:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These prime areas are strengthened and applied through four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Learning in Practice

To ensure a rich and well-rounded experience, the curriculum incorporates a range of activities and experiences in each area:

- **Communication and Language:** Children are provided with opportunities to engage in a rich language environment, develop confidence in expressing themselves, and practise speaking and listening in a variety of situations.
- **Physical Development:** Children are encouraged to be active and interactive, developing coordination, control, and movement. They are also guided to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices regarding nutrition.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Children are supported to develop a positive sense of self and others, form respectful relationships, acquire social skills, manage their emotions, understand appropriate behaviour in groups, and build confidence in their abilities.
- **Literacy:** Children are encouraged to link sounds and letters, and begin reading and writing. They have access to a wide range of reading materials, including books, poems, and other texts, to foster a love of reading. TSI uses the Jolly Phonics UK Programme as the main approach to support early reading (blending) and spelling (segmenting), helping children develop strong foundational skills in English.
- **Mathematics:** Children develop and enhance skills in counting, understanding numbers, performing simple calculations, and describing shapes, spaces, and measurements.
- **Understanding the World:** Children are guided to make sense of their physical world and community through exploration, observation, and inquiry about people, places, technology, and the environment.
- **Expressive Arts and Design:** Children explore and experiment with a variety of media and materials, and are encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology activities.



Learning Through Play

At TSI, each area of learning in the Early Years is implemented through planned, purposeful play and a variety of activities that are either adult-led or child-initiated. Play is essential for children's development, helping them build confidence, explore, solve problems, and develop relationships with others.

Children learn both by leading their own play and through teacher-guided activities. Through play, students develop intellectually, creatively, physically, socially, and emotionally. Interacting with their environment during play allows children to gain control over their bodies and refine a range of manipulative and motor skills. Through social interactions, they acquire new skills and concepts, discover the world around them, and develop a deeper understanding of themselves.

Play-based learning also promotes language development, critical and creative thinking, and supports children in navigating complex emotions. Throughout the Foundation Stage at TSI, teachers adopt a continuous provision approach, enabling students to move freely around the learning environment and engage in activities that interest and motivate them.

Assessment and Reporting

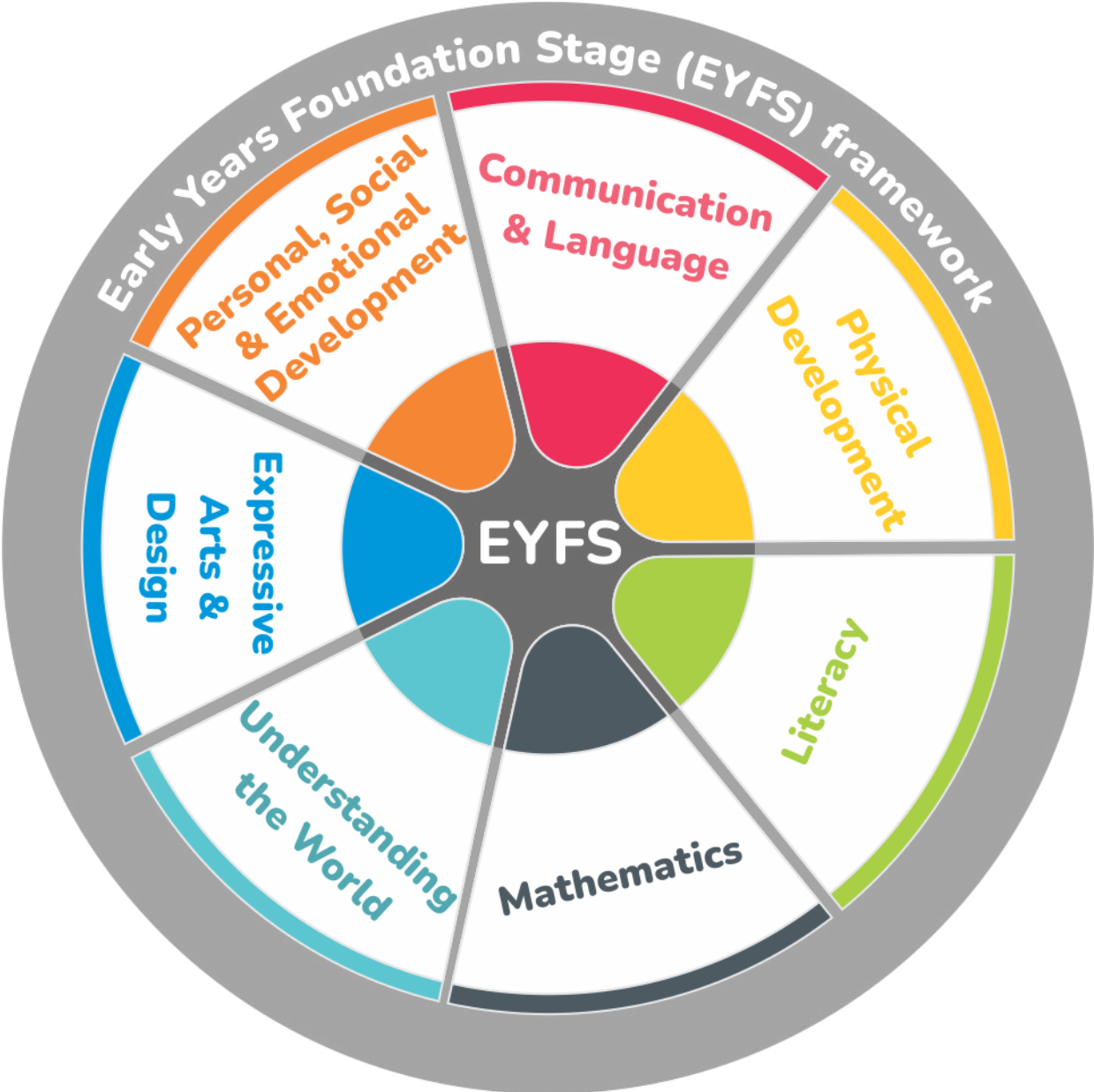
In the Foundation Stage, children work towards the Early Learning Goals, which define the expected skills, knowledge, understanding, and attitudes by the end of the stage. At TSI, we focus on holistic development, prioritising well-being, social and emotional growth, and creating a safe and supportive learning environment. We aim for students to feel confident tackling new tasks and situations independently, build positive relationships with adults and peers, and develop as risk-takers, inquirers, communicators, and enthusiastic learners who are constantly seeking new knowledge.

Ongoing assessment allows us to monitor student progress in relation to these objectives. Formative assessments provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. Teachers observe children to understand their level of achievement, interests, and learning styles, and then adapt learning experiences based on these reflections. Observations by parents, caregivers, and teachers are also highly valued.

At TSI, all observations and assessments by Early Years professionals are documented using Tapestry, an online learning journal. Tapestry allows us to upload evidence of a child's progress, track development across all areas of learning, and provide a comprehensive record of their experiences throughout the early years.

The following pages outline our core assessment criteria for each of the seven areas of study.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework



Programme of Inquiry

At TSI, we believe that an inquiry-based model is central to students' development, deepening understanding through the exploration and application of concepts. We value the importance of teaching students about global interdependence, appreciation for diverse cultural perspectives, and awareness of social action, helping them understand their individual role in society.

Units of Inquiry have been developed for each year level to promote both academic and character development. Inquiry-based learning encourages students to ask questions, wonder, explore, make connections to prior knowledge, predict outcomes, test ideas, clarify existing understanding, conduct research, defend positions, and solve problems using a variety of methods.

The curriculum is delivered through cross-curricular units, integrating subjects around key concepts. Units are primarily built around Social Studies and Science objectives, with other subjects, such as Literacy, Mathematics, Music, Thai, Physical Education, and Swimming, integrated as appropriate. Most learning is facilitated by the homeroom teacher, while specialist subjects are taught by subject-specific teachers. All units of the Programme of Inquiry are designed to foster Global Citizenship and develop essential 21st-century skills, including critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, communication, and problem-solving. By engaging with these units, students not only gain knowledge across subjects but also learn to apply their skills in real-world contexts, preparing them to be thoughtful, responsible, and capable global citizens.



Thai Language and Culture

All students at TSI study Thai Language and Culture as a specialist subject. The programme is designed to help students develop an appreciation for both the language and cultural heritage of their own or the host country.



Integrated Art

At TSI, we believe the Arts are an essential part of every student's education. Students in Key Stages 1 and 2 participate in Integrated Art classes one to two times per week, taught collaboratively by the homeroom and art teacher. These lessons are closely linked to each Unit of Inquiry, enabling students to make meaningful connections across subjects and express their understanding through creative and imaginative approaches.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), there are no specialist Art classes. Instead, artistic experiences are embedded within the EYFS curriculum, allowing students to explore creative expression as an integral part of their daily learning.



Music

At TSI, we consider Music an essential part of student learning, offering opportunities for cultural expression, creativity, and personal growth. Students engage in singing, dancing, rhythm exploration, and instrument play, as well as performances that celebrate their learning. Through an inquiry-based approach, students develop imagination, creativity, practical skills, and the ability to communicate ideas through music. Our goal is to foster a lasting appreciation and enjoyment of music.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), there are no specialist Music lessons. Instead, musical experiences are embedded within the EYFS curriculum, with teachers provided guidance and resources to confidently integrate music into everyday learning.

Physical Education and Swimming

At TSI, we believe Physical Education (PE) plays a vital role in promoting active lifestyles and developing the physical, social, and emotional skills students need to thrive. Our curriculum, based on the UK National Curriculum, provides a wide range of opportunities for students to stay active, build confidence, and enjoy movement.

For our Little Lions (Pre-Nursery) and Nursery students, there are no formal PE or swimming lessons. Instead, physical activity is embedded in their daily routines through play, outdoor exploration, and guided movement. Children at these stages also take part in splash play, helping them feel comfortable and confident in the water.

From Nursery, children begin formal PE lessons designed to support early development of movement, coordination, and balance. Swimming continues to focus on playful water activities, gradually building water confidence in a safe and enjoyable way.

In Reception, students spend more structured time in the pool, with an emphasis on building comfort

and confidence to remain in the water for longer periods.

From Key Stage 1 onwards, students participate in regular PE lessons that further develop agility, balance, coordination, and teamwork through both cooperative and competitive activities. In Key Stage 2, students apply a broader range of skills and continue to enhance communication, collaboration, and strategic thinking in different sporting contexts. Swimming also becomes a weekly component, with lessons designed to develop technique, endurance, and water safety skills.

We also conduct regular wellness mornings, such as EYFS Little Movers Wellness Mornings and Zumba Kids, as part of our complimentary programmes to support student well-being.





— INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL —

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