



Curriculum Overview

Intent

The Old Hospital Nursery offers a variety of rich experiences crucial to child development. We strongly believe that children learn best when they are interested, curious and deeply engaged, which at this age and stage of development is best achieved through play.

Our approach is committed to child-led learning. We see children as confident and capable learners who have both the capacity to lead their own learning and develop their own ideas and theories. As practitioners, we provide observation and support, to extend this learning alongside the child. We believe that the correct mix of adult directed and uninterrupted child-initiated play ensures the best outcome for the children.

Our intentions are to develop our Nursery children physically, verbally, emotionally, creatively, intellectually, and spiritually whilst embedding a positive attitude to learning to allow each child to fulfil their full potential.

Warm and positive relationships between staff and children, consistent routines and strong relationships with parents/carers are key.

We set high expectations throughout all areas of nursery and beyond. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as individuals. We are excited by the prospect of supporting each child in their unique potential.

We are passionate advocates for ensuring that all of our children are able to share how they feel, and to support them with any worries or concerns they may have, as we fully believe...

Happy Children Learn.



Implementation

We meet all the welfare requirements laid down in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 and actively safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our children. We use the Early Years Foundation Stage Development Matters Statements to ensure children's developmental milestones are achieved according to each unique child.

The Prime Areas:-

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

The Specific Areas:-

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts

Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing & Learning
- Active Learning
- Creating & Thinking Critically

As part of the learning and teaching process, children are assessed in relation to their progress towards the checkpoints in the Development Matters. These judgements are made by the in-depth practitioner knowledge of the children acquired through ongoing observation and assessment. These ongoing assessments are then used to inform planning and the next steps in teaching and learning for all the children throughout the year.



The curriculum is taught through the following ways:-

In the moment planning

We have adopted an 'in the moment' approach to our teaching and learning. This approach provides us with the opportunities to engage in high quality interactions with the children, where we follow their interests and spot 'teachable' moments in their play. We support them to develop their skills and knowledge. Their learning is moved on as immediately as next steps are identified and met. All planning is flexible and responsive to the children's needs, allowing plans to be changed and adapted dependent on the children's interests.

Our environment

Our environment is carefully planned and designed to ensure the core provision meets the needs of all the children, to ignite and promote curiosity. Our learning environment consists of various different areas. Each area is equally important and provides children with a range of resources and equipment to enable children to learn and work towards our Nursery Goals.

Authentic resources

We use natural, reclaimed and authentic resources, which promote exploration, discovery, creativity, imagination, curiosity, awe and wonder. These resources are anything from branches, pinecones, leaves, mud, flowers and real items such as kettles, pots and pans, fragile objects such as glass and pottery.

Adult-led activities

In addition to open-ended, child-initiated learning, regular routines of the day offer important opportunities for learning and literacy development. Adult-led activities include a daily story time, singing sessions and for the older children phonics/math learning. By providing a rich, beautiful learning environment filled with awe and wonder we enable our children to become inquisitive and passionate learners. We believe that by focusing on learning skills, where children lead their learning and adults play a supporting role through quality interactions and observations. By adopting a 'in the moment planning' approach, it enables us to offer a more bespoke learning program for the children in our setting. It is important that we understand and utilise children's schemas, these are inherently important to children's learning and allow us to further support and develop children's learning.



We prioritise a language rich environment through the use of songs, nursery rhymes, stories and ensuring there is time for quality interactions between adults and peers.

Parent Engagement

We get to know our families and children well and use their interests and knowledge to further develop our children's understanding of themselves, our local community and beyond. We work hard to create strong partnerships between home and nursery. Parents enjoy using the Blossom App to engage in their children's learning and are encouraged to share learning at home.



Impact

Our curriculum and its delivery ensure that children, from their own starting points make good progress and are offered a broad curriculum which meets each child's unique needs. Children make good progress toward their age-related expectations both academically and socially, before transitioning to school.

We believe our high standards are due to our carefully planned environment, enriched play-based curriculum, quality teaching and assessment to make sure each child receives the right support at an early age.

We believe high quality child-initiated play results in deep involvement. Deep involvement indicates brain development and learning.

Children and families feel happy, safe and enjoy coming to nursery.