



09 Childcare practice policy

Aim

Children are safe, happy, and eager to participate and to learn.

Objectives

- Young children need to feel safe, happy and eager to participate and learn. It is their *entitlement* to be settled comfortably into a new environment.
- A procedure is agreed for when children do not settle and for prolonged absences.
- We actively promote British values, inclusion, equality of opportunity and the valuing of diversity.
- We operate a positive behaviour management approach. Behaviour management procedures cover how staff should respond to all aspects of behaviour, including children who exhibit challenging behaviour towards other children.

Our approach to learning is based around three key statements: -

1. Learning is a lifelong process, which enables children and adults to contribute to and shape their world.
2. We want the curriculum we provide to help children to learn to:
 - be confident and independent
 - be aware of and responsive to their feelings
 - make caring and thoughtful relationships with other people
 - become increasingly excited by, interested in, and knowledgeable about the world around them.
3. We provide a wide range of interesting child-chosen and adult-initiated activities which:
 - give children opportunities to use all their senses
 - help children of different ages and stages to play together
 - help children be the directors of their own learning
 - help children develop an inquiring and questioning attitude to the world around them

The *Early Years Foundation Stage* is used as a framework to provide care and learning opportunities for children. We want children to feel securely settled and ready to learn, children from two to five years need to form attachments with adults who care for them and children too. In this way children feel part of a community of learners; they can contribute to that community and receive from it.

Waiting list and admissions

Our provision is accessible to children and families from all sections of the local and wider community. We aim to ensure that all sections of the community receive accessible information and that our admissions procedures are fair, clear, and open to all parents who apply for places. The availability of a place at the setting considers staff/child ratios, the age of the child and registration requirements.

- We endeavour to operate in an inclusive manner which enables all children and families to access our services.
- We also have regard for the needs of parents who are:
 - looking to take up work, remain in work or extend their hours of work
 - looking to commence training or education

- We work in partnership with the local authority and other agencies to ensure that our provision is accessible to all sections of the community.
- Service information is accessible to all sections of the community.
- Where the number of children wanting places exceeds the number of places available a waiting list is operated using clear criteria for allocation of places as detailed in section 09.1 Waiting list and admissions procedure.

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Funded places – free entitlement

All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to 15 hours free childcare each week for 38 weeks of the year. Some eligible 2 year olds are also entitled. Funded places are offered in accordance with national and local codes of practice and adherence to the relevant Provider Agreement with the local authority.

Legal References

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE and DHSC 2014)

Equality Act 2010

Childcare Act 2006