

Dolphins Childcare Centre

Mission & Curriculum



MILLFIELD
NURSERIES LTD



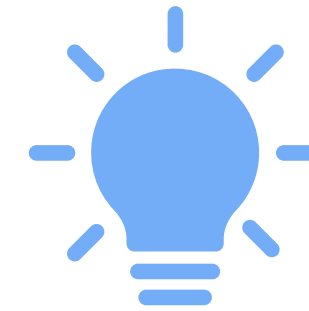
OUR MISSION



The wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of everything we do. We provide high-quality childcare in nurturing environments where every child feels safe, valued, and inspired to reach their potential. Through play, creativity, and discovery, we foster confidence, independence, and a love of learning. By working closely with families and the local community, we create a supportive space where children can thrive.



Our aim is to ensure that every child is offered equal opportunities to be able to grow within our setting as individuals. We aim to offer a curious, welcoming and enriched environment which supports children's desire to explore and discover as they learn and develop.



We are passionate about offering an ambitious curriculum that has the child at the centre. A curriculum that follows children's individual interests and builds on what they know. We offer a range of enriched learning opportunities which is supported by Birth to 5 Matters.



Our aim is for parents to be involved in their children's learning and leave us feeling supported and confident in their child's next steps.



OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is **the child**.

It starts with, is led by, and ends with the child.

Our aim is for children to leave our nursery as, **strong communicators, confident and independent, active and engaged learners, with an understanding of their place in the world.**

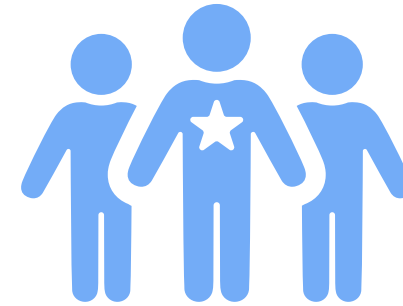
BRITISH VALUES



The rule of law



Mutual respect



Individual liberty



Democracy



**Tolerance of those with
different beliefs and faiths**

We treat everybody equally.

We understand right from wrong.

We understand the consequence of our actions.

We listen and respect other people's opinions and values.

We try to help other people. We know that we are all special.

We understand and respect the roles of people who may help us.

We respect the culture and belief of others.

OUR CURRICULUM - INTENT

Under 2's

Our **INTENT** is to lay and cement strong foundations within the prime areas of learning, make secure attachments and begin to develop a strong sense of self through heuristic and sensory experiences, and to give them confidence and independence while providing a wide exposure to communication as they begin to develop their voice.

Toddlers

Our **INTENT** is to continue building on each child's sense of self, broadening vocabulary through a wide range of quality learning experiences and encourage children to be aware of their emotions, supporting them to begin to self-regulate.

Preschool

Our **INTENT** is to ensure children transition to school with the required knowledge and experience to reach a good level of development by the end of foundation stage. Through enriching storytelling, role modelling, good citizenship, whilst always promoting equity and equality.

STRONG COMMUNICATORS

Intent

We want children to be confident in expressing themselves and strong communicators within all aspects of their life to allow the children to have a voice and speak freely with passion and determination to achieve their goals.

Implement

We provide a language rich environment; we hear the voices of children, we consult with them, challenge them, question them, introduce new language to them, give them time to answer, and we encourage them to sing, dance, read and sign.

Impact

Children are confident speakers and able to express their feelings to peers and adults when needed. They can answer questions and help others.

As a Practitioner I will

- Sing and dance with the children, read books and talk to them.
- Listen to the children and give them time to speak.
- Ask the children open ended questions.
- Introduce new language and extend on their learning experiences.
- Provide an enabling environment and new learning opportunities based on the children's interests to promote opportunities for new language.

STRONG COMMUNICATORS

What does this look like for different age groups?

Babies

Repetition of single basic words with actions or an object as a visual representation of that word, baby sign, singing and dancing with big movement actions, reading single worded books. Sensory play allows them to explore through touch, taste and sound, copying sound and movement from the children.

Toddlers

Introducing short sentences and giving two choices which they can verbally say which one they want, narrating over their play and their actions for children to hear the language so they are able to associate the word with an action/object. Give children time to respond. Using lots of repetition to allow the child to have a full understanding of what or why. Introduce emotions and co regulation opportunities. Encourage laughter and having fun, as happiness deepens learning.

Preschool

Introducing new language and concepts in their play and activities. Model language to help develop roles in stories. Support children's confidence with words and body language. Model responding positively when things go wrong and talk about learning or trying again. Give children opportunities to label their feelings and provide them with tools to help manage them. Encourage children to reflect and evaluate their work and review their own progress and learning.

CONFIDENT & INDEPENDENT

Intent

For the children to have a secure attachment and nurturing relationships. We want children to have the confidence to communicate with others and develop awareness of themselves and their actions. We aim to give the children the tools to be able to have empathy towards others and support their own independence.

Implement

We encourage, empower and promote children's independence. We provide consistent boundaries, giving children responsibility and opportunities to lead. We let children experiment and explore and we will teach children right from wrong.

Impact

Children become confident and independent. They are able to express themselves and explore without hesitation. Children achieve tasks, work as a team or individually and ask for help if needed.

As a Practitioner I will

- Follow the key person approach by changing nappies, feeding, small group times and build a secure attachment.
- Let the children self-serve and support them where needed.
- Let the children try things for themselves and encourage them to solve problems for themselves, with support.
- Give the children choices and allow them to make that choice.
- Promote positive behaviour.
- Help the children identify manageable risks and support them to overcome them.
- Allow the children to explore and have their voice heard.

CONFIDENT & INDEPENDENT

What does this look like in different age groups?

Babies

Build a secure attachment. Make sure babies feel comforted and nurtured in their environment and build secure relationships with key practitioners. Give positive praise. Make time for quality interactions, watch and listen carefully to try and understand what the child wants to know or achieve. Let them explore and be curious. Take a step back and watch them try to figure it out for themselves before intervening.

Toddlers

Ensure children have time and freedom to become deeply involved in activities as well as giving them independence in choosing what they want to do and when they want to do it. We give children the freedom to explore their interests and give them time to solve problems. We start to encourage independence by self-serving, washing their hands and faces, putting coats on, dressing and undressing. We teach children routines and make sure they are aware of what happens next. We give children the opportunity to try things for themselves and take manageable risks. We encourage the children to take care of their surroundings, personal items and toys.

Preschool

We encourage children to listen to each other's ideas as they play, have fun, think and learn together. We encourage children to share their experiences. We follow children's lead and give them time so as not to disrupt their play and train of thought. Children begin to have responsibility in their environment, and in taking care of what's around them. We encourage open ended thinking, generating more alternative ideas or solutions by not settling on the first suggestion - what else is possible? We encourage them to question and challenge assumptions. We encourage children to describe problems they encounter and to suggest ways to solve them.

ACTIVE & ENGAGED LEARNERS

Intent

For children to have a love of learning, be engaged in their environments and be active participants in their learning. We want children to think critically and challenge their thinking and thoughts. We aim to provide a stimulating environment that ignites their curiosity and fosters a love for learning and engagement.

Implement

We challenge and inspire children in their learning and through the environment. We give access to technology tools to research and involve children by listening to their ideas. We have fun with the children and share the joy of learning together. We embrace adventure with the children and expose them to new ideas.

Impact

Children are keen to learn through their interactions with each other and with adults. Children seek out their own learning and participate in small group times. Children are curious and actively engage in opportunities designed to support their learning and development.

As a Practitioner I will

- Create a flexible and inviting learning environment; indoors and outdoors.
- Understand the children's abilities and challenge them appropriately.
- Explore, solve problems and experiment with the children through resources, activities and nature.
- Skillfully intervene to give children appropriate challenge & help them progress.
- Encourage the children & celebrate their success.
- Give the children guidance so they can understand when they struggle, giving them support.
- Listen and notice what children are interested in.
- Extend on the children's interests or current knowledge.

ACTIVE & ENGAGED LEARNERS

All children are naturally active and engaged learners because they are so curious about the world and what the environment has to offer. They have a drive for problem solving and testing things out, pushing boundaries and creating with their imagination.

For all ages we will:

Create a calm and homely environment to allow the children to feel safe and secure which encourages them be curious and explore the different environments.

We role model to the children how to solve problems and how to carry out a task, showing them the way and then giving them the opportunity and space to try it out for themselves.

We celebrate the children's successes and provide encouragement and the space to 'try again' if things don't go well.

We provide lots of fun and learning through play, which is why repetition is so key. For example, when blowing bubbles to us as adults it is just blowing bubbles and can get boring after a few minutes. However, to a child, they can count, they can see different colours and smells, they can learn to hold with a pincer grip or blow softly to not make a bubble pop and this activity could last for over a week as the practitioners will be adapting it and asking different questions or adding something to the activity each time.

KNOWING THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Intent

We want the children to have a sense of belonging, at our nursery and within their community. We want children to feel secure, accepted and that they belong. We want the children to understand diversity within the community and that diversity and inclusion is respected and celebrated. We want children to value and respect the world we live in, including people and nature around us.

Implement

We celebrate every child's culture and unique identify and we teach children about the world around them. We show children respect and how to show respect to others. We know each child's family and involve them in the nursery

Impact

Children are kind and respectful of themselves, and each other. They show empathy and are keen to always learn more about people, nature and the world around them.

As a Practitioner I will

- Ensure children have a sense of belonging.
- Know their culture, heritage and celebrate festivals. For example, by inviting their families into the nursery to share.
- Take children on walks and involve them in the community.
- Promote an understanding and love of the natural world around us.
- Share in their experiences from home.
- Support them in their transitions at home (new house etc).

KNOWING THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD

For all ages we will:

Ensure children have a sense of belonging by listening to them, engaging in shared interests and actively promoting their unique identity throughout the provision.

We will promote an understanding and love of the natural world around us by teaching children about growing, where food comes from and how to care for animals.

We will know the children in our care exceptionally well, including their culture, heritage and all things that make them and their family unique.

Children will be offered opportunities to attend forest school activities.

We will take the children on walks and involve them in the community such as coffee mornings with the elderly to integrate multigenerational learning.

Children are encouraged to share their experiences from home.



CONCLUSION

Through our mission, curriculum and approach to teaching and learning (which is supported by our team and the framework), we support the growth of each child. A child starts with us in babies and grows with us through to pre-school. They are ready for their new chapter and are filled with confidence, respect, integrity and empathy which follows them through life.

These core skills provide each individual child to leave nursery and flourish in their new chapter.

Each Curriculum aim is adapted within each room to be age appropriate by the staff and implemented by them with the children in mind. To have a core focus throughout the nursery of all ages embeds and sequences these life skills. Without forgetting to have lots of fun along the way as we want our children to learn through play and real-life experiences.

Inclusivity is essential and we support children with additional needs to acquire these skills by adapting activities and learning opportunities where necessary.

We pride ourselves in having an open-door policy and encourage parents to join our events held at the nursery throughout the year, come and read books or talk about their job to the children. We support nursery and home learning by asking parents to send in pictures of their weekend/holiday activities and life events to talk to and support the children with at nursery.