

CURRICULUM POLICY

The Pre-School Curriculum is not statutory, however our curriculum is based on guidance issued by the Education Authority and DHSS, which enables and promotes all aspects of the child's development through a rich variety of informal, topic based learning experiences.

We maintain Long, Medium and Short term plans, which cover the six areas of learning – The Arts, Language development, Numeracy development, Personal, Social and Emotional development, Physical development and Movement, and The World Around Us. Planning is regularly assessed to ensure that we are providing a balanced curriculum and children are being given opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes at a developmentally appropriate level.

- The planned curriculum is based on the 'stepping stones' but allows flexibility to include the children's own interests. Each planning cycle is sent to parents by email, detailing what their child will be doing on a week-to-week basis, including Family Pages for promoting learning at home
- Children's gender, race, ability and spirituality is considered when planning the curriculum
- Plans incorporate provision for Special Educational Needs and Multicultural experiences
- There are written plans for the areas of learning
- Our plans offer, and support, continuity of learning and are developmentally appropriate, differentiating between children's abilities and understanding to cater for the needs of every child
- Planning recognises the importance of child-initiated learning, together with adult initiated learning
- Short-term plans allow room for change based on staff observations
- Outdoor play is planned to extend the children's learning experiences. The outdoor space provides a different kind of play for children that is different to that of the classroom and involves a separate plan (Donna Mulhern is the outdoor coordinator). The Pre School also make use of the garden area.

- The planned programme is regularly evaluated and assessed and may change if any needs come to light and take account children's views

We recognise that parents are the child's first educators and aim to work in partnership with them to include the children's learning at home. Parents are given information about the Foundation Stage, topics we are covering and invited to share the child's experiences at home with the pre-school.

Refer to our *Getting Ready to Learn*, *Woodwork Programme*, *Additional Programmes* and *Outdoor Learning* and *Learning through Play* Policies for more information relating to the Curriculum.