

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to let you know about our approach to supporting children's learning and development. At our nursery, we use 'In the Moment Planning' (ITMP), a child-centred approach that enables staff to respond to each child's interests, ideas and learning as they happen. This information explains how our approach works and how you can help us support your child's learning and development.

Planning

Our staff follow a continuous cycle of observing, assessing and responding to children's learning on a moment-by-moment basis. Each week, a small group of children will be selected as focus children, while all children continue to receive support and take part in meaningful learning experiences. Significant observations and learning are recorded in the focus children's learning journeys.

We believe this is best because ...

"Babies and young children are experiencing and learning in the here and now, not storing up their questions until tomorrow or next week. It is in that moment of curiosity, puzzlement, effort or interest – the 'teachable moment' – that the skilful adult makes a difference. By using this cycle on a moment-by-moment basis, the adult will be always alert to individual children (observation), always thinking about what it tells us about the child's thinking (assessment), and always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support children's well-being and learning (planning for the next moment)."

Progress and Development

When children show high levels of involvement, that is when there is progress and development occurring – when the brain is at its most active. High level involvement occurs most often when children are able to pursue their own interests in an enabling environment supported by skilled staff. Planning in the moment helps to make this possible.

The Role of The Adult

The adults are there to facilitate learning. They do this through observations and interactions. Our staff know the children very well and have a sound understanding of child development. This ensures that the adults enhance and extend the learning at the appropriate level.

Planning in the moment

We use the observation cycle on a moment-by-moment basis. The focus children are given extra attention, but all the children are busy and learning all the time.

How you can help

Each child will be selected as a focus child once during each term. Before your child's focus week, we will email you a parent consultation sheet. We ask you to complete it in as much detail as possible and, if you are able to, share up to 10 recent photographs of your child and family. Please return the completed sheet and photographs by the date provided. The information you share will help staff build on your child's interests, experiences and learning during their focus week, and the photographs can be included in their learning journey.

Yours sincerely,

Nursery management team