Tots 2 Toddlers

Early Years Foundation Stage

Intent of Policy:

Tots 2 Toddlers aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning.

Implementation of Policy:

* As outlined in the EYFS ‘When we give every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow.’
* Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.
* We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS.
* Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

As part of our practice we:

* Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning, using play as the vehicle for learning.
* Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support.
* Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context.
* Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment.
* Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are adult-initiated and child-initiated, supported by the adult.
* Have a key person approach to develop close relationships with individual children.
* Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and out.

 Foundation Stage Curriculum:

* We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children’s needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals.
* All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.
* Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.
* These three areas are the **prime**areas:
	+ **Communication and Language**
	+ **Physical Development**
	+ **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

* Children are also supported through the four **specific**areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.
* The **specific** areas are:
	+ **Literacy**
	+ **Mathematics**
	+ **Understanding the World**
	+ **Expressive Arts and Design**
* Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and are active.
* We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development.
* Practitioners working with the youngest children in nursery will focus strongly on the three prime areas, which are the basis for successful learning in the other four specific areas.
* The three prime areas reflect the key skills and capacities all children need to develop and learn effectively and become ready for school.
* The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as the children move through the Early Years at Tots 2 Toddlers and grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas.
* The curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach as outlined by the EYFS.
* We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those that are planned by the adults.
* During children’s play, early years’ practitioners interact to stretch and challenge children further.
* In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practice.
* We create a stimulating environment to encourage children to free-flow between inside and out.

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

The EYFS also includes the characteristics of effective teaching and learning. The Nursery plan activities with these in mind.

They highlight the importance of a child’s attitude to learning and their ability to play, explore and

think critically about the world around them.

The three characteristics are;

* **Playing and Exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’
* **Active Learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements
* **Creating and Thinking Critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links

 between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

Observation and Assessment:

* As part of our daily practice we observe and assess children’s development and learning to inform our future plans.
* We record our observations on our ‘Tapestry,’ system where photographs and children’s work can also be included.
* Everyone is encouraged to contribute and discussions take place.
* Observations and/or photos of children’s achievements and learning development are collated in their own personal learning journey, which is shared with parents using our ‘Tapestry,’ system.
* Summary reports are completed and parents/carers are invited to a parent’s evening shortly after the reports are published to discuss their child’s progress. These are completed in the following intervals:

Pre-school Termly

Toddlers 6 monthly

Babies Yearly

**Keyworkers**

* When your child starts with us a key worker will be responsible for their care.
* The key worker will ensure that the needs of each child in their care are met and will build up a relationship of trust through a process of responding sensitively to their feelings and behaviour.
* We also recognise that the key person will not be in the nursery from open to close each and every day of the year and therefore to ensure continuity of care and remove any distress to the child, the key person will gradually encourage and help your child to develop relationships with other members of staff as well as children.
* Each child is assigned a second key worker who will support them and when the first key worker is not in nursery.
* The key worker will be best suited to understanding your child’s individual needs and to share and discuss information with parents about their child’s time at nursery.
* The Key carer and other staff who work closely with your child, will observe them in their play which will enable them to plan appropriate opportunities and experiences that will best meet their needs and interests.

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| Review Date: | Signed: | Next Review Due: |
| 01/09/2021 | H Waller | 01/09/2022 |