

Care, Learning and Play Policy

Date: October 2021

Review Date: October 2022

The first five years of life are crucial to a child's development. High quality early years provision has been proven to help children achieve their potential and support parents and their families. The role of the Early years practitioner encompasses a wide range of aspects dedicated to enhance children's experiences in a positive and supportive way.

In order to broaden the implementation of this policy Newton Westpark Nursery will endeavour to work in partnership with other providers involved in the care of children attending its settings. This will be by communicating verbally and attending regular meetings if needed.

With parental consent Newton Westpark nursery will encourage the sharing of information as determined by the EYFS requirements.

At Newton Westpark Nursery we will ensure that we deliver the 3 prime areas and the 4 specific areas of learning development through the 7 educational programmes, these are:-

Prime Areas of Learning

- Personal, Social & Emotional
- Communication & Language
- Physical

These prime areas are what all children need to concentrate on in their first few weeks and months of development. When they start nursery we will continue to support their development from home in our caring and safe environment. We focus on these prime areas whilst introducing the other 4 specific areas throughout the provision. During the period between 2 and 3 years of age we work with you and your Health Professionals to develop a Progress Check for your child. This will include a written summary of how they are progressing against these 3 prime areas.

Specific Areas of Learning

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design

These specific areas include many essential skills and knowledge that children need to learn in order to be ready for school. We all play a vital role in helping children achieve these and your involvement as a parent is a key factor in their success.

All seven areas are used to promote your child's individual interests and unique learning needs. Children are observed regularly to ensure their learning is effective; which can be seen by them investigating, concentrating and having their own ideas and thoughts.

Children with English as an Additional Language:

1. Language Learning

- We recognise the fact that a child may enter our setting who is already developing one or more languages and is now adding English to the list.
- We always allow these children extra space and time, patience and support.

- We acknowledge and celebrate the skills they have in their home language for we believe this promotes confidence in their own abilities and raises their self-esteem. We recognise and reassure parents that their children will benefit if they use, maintain and develop their 'home' language and we encourage them to spend time in this interaction with their child.
- We invite parents to share their home language and cultural background with staff and other children in the nursery through visits and the participation in activities. Parents are invited to provide a list of key words and phrases or translations of these, to assist the child's transition into Nursery.

2. Social Skills

- Children who share the same home language are encouraged and enabled to spend time together in the nursery to communicate.
- Staff ensure that they make their teaching as visual as possible through the provision of pictorial and additional resources to assist EAL children and to enable them to fully access the inclusive learning environment.
- Staff ensure that they use gestures, facial expressions and explanatory actions together with the use of objects to explain each part of an activity.

3. Introduction

- Upon entry to the nursery the family is welcomed by the Nursery Manager, who will show families around the nursery and check to see if there are places available. **(Our visits are done after 3.30pm at present due to Covid risk assessment, making sure any visitors wear a mask or visor, and that there are no children in the nursery)**
- The child's key person offers support and assists in completing the setting's induction pack, if required. The key person continues to liaise with the family and ensures that they receive information and newsletters in a form that is accessible to them and that they are able to communicate their views and concerns to the staff without difficulty. The key person will seek the advice and support of the Early years team who are often able to provide translation solutions. **(At present our induction packs are given to families to complete at home, any guidance needed can be done at the door to nursery- -Covid risk assessment)**

4. Language Development

- We differentiate between those children who speak 'English as an Additional Language' or those who are 'Bilingual' by using the following definitions as provided by the Department of Education. **EAL** stands for 'English as an Additional Language' and recognises the fact that many children learning English in schools in this country already know one or more other languages and are adding English to that repertoire. **Bilingual** is used to refer to those children who have access to more than one language at home and at school. It does not necessarily imply full fluency in both or all of their languages.

Food – Newton Westpark Nursery will endeavour to provide children with the opportunity to experience a well-balanced, nutritional and varied menu with alternatives for individual specific dietary requirements. Food and liquid consumption will be regularly monitored to ensure children do not go hungry or become dehydrated.

Drinking water is available for children to have throughout the day, all children have a named water bottle that is cleaned and sanitised every day with Milton.

Well-being – Newton Westpark Nursery will endeavour to support, enhance and promote the well-being of all the children in their care. This will be governed by the directives included in all the policies, parents' instruction and legislative requirements. Personal hygiene is advertised and encouraged to prevent cross contamination, spread of disease and to pronounce children's awareness. The nursery will help children to distinguish right from wrong by encouraging positive behaviour, and giving praise for a child's affirmative contribution and good behaviour.

Environment – Newton Westpark Nursery will endeavour to provide an environment that is both physically stimulating and exciting whilst retaining stringent procedures to safeguard the security and safety of the children in the setting. We aim to keep our areas of learning similar to the natural environment but also challenging to give children the opportunity to take new risks.

Children will be encouraged to take on their responsibilities to promote and enhance their learning whilst understanding how to keep safe within the guidelines and direction of the practitioners and setting rules.

Social Development – Newton Westpark nursery understands, supports and promotes the social development of the children in its care. Through daily routine, encouragement, reward and the provision of positive role models children should develop a well balance, confident and happy disposition.

Children will be encouraged, whenever possible; to set their own ground rules, correct inappropriate behaviour and express feelings with the support and empathy of the staff deployed as they progress through the natural changes of their growing years. Children will be encouraged to build positive relationships with each other, across all age ranges, as well as with the settings practitioners.

Key Person - Children must feel safe and secure in the early years environment. Through the appointment of the key person the children are encouraged to form attachments within the setting which reduces anxiety as well as developing a genuine bond with the child and offering a settled, close relationship. With the allocation of a key person it is hoped that the children and their parents become familiar with the setting and feel confident and safe within it. This will enable the keyworker to build positive relationships with the family.

The key person will be regularly writing observations and taking pictures of the children, parents will be informed of this and consent will be given when the child starts nursery. We are using the Seesaw App which parents can access and see their child at play. The observations will be linked to the EYFS. For discussions about your child's development an arranged meeting can be organised by the key person.

Learning

Planning – Our staff plan activities specifically suitable to the children under their care. These follow guidelines provided in the Early Years Foundation Stage depending on the interests of the children in their key worker group. Our planning includes some long, medium and short term objectives with plenty of opportunity for sustained shared learning with both adults and peers.

Observation and Assessment - It is envisaged that on-going individual observations will be achieved for each child as defined by the child's key worker but it is intended that a more formal written assessment will be made periodically. Opportunity for informal parental observation and assessment is also encouraged so that a more defined overall assessment can be achieved. At the end of their attendance at Newton Westpark Nursery a summary document of their stage of development will be made available to the new establishment and all observation and assessment documentation will be transferred to the parent.

Parents as Partners – Newton Westpark Nursery understands and promotes the statement “Parents are children's first and most enduring educators.” and ensures that the parent's involvement as part of the shared learning process plays a significant part in the welfare of children attending the setting. The continuing contribution of children's parents is regarded as a special relationship in terms of shared educational aims so that the best developmental outcomes may be achieved for the children. **We use the seesaw app to communicate the child's learning with the parents throughout the day, this can also be used to relay messages to the parents i.e. if a child has come in upset, we can show the parent that their child is settled.**

Play

Free Play - Free play provides the children with the opportunity to have an open choice for what they wish to play with. They can move freely from table to table or around the floor without restriction. A range of toys available for free play may include; duplo, stickle bricks, car mat and cars, train set, books, small world toys, animals etc.

Child initiated – As children advance through the Early Years Foundation Stage, opportunities for child initiation is encouraged. Planning is carried out using the children's interests as our starting points and next steps are then completed accordingly. Older children may become involved in the actual planning of activities, may request changes to the set up or may independently clear away and

choose other resources. Children will be encouraged to take turns, self-select, clear away, maintain aspects of health and safety or take lead depending on their individual development stage.

Key worker group activities - The daily routine will include sessions of key worker group activities where play is planned specifically to enhance development on an individual basis. These periods may often include an activity linked to the needs of certain "focus children" for that session, e.g. Toddler and Phonics, which may involve individual or group play.

Creative, mark making and malleable play - Opportunities for creativity includes a wide range of activities which may involve imagination, awareness of colour and design, mark making and malleable materials but above all it encourages experimentation. A range of these activities will be offered to all children on a regular basis and participation encouraged.

A range of creative activities may include; sand, water, play dough, gloop, role play, music etc. These opportunities are further enhanced with the provision of tools; pots, pans, funnels, scissors, spades etc. **At present due to our Covid risk assessment, we use smaller trays of sand, rice, pasta etc so that this can be easily thrown and replaced if needed throughout the sessions. Our large sand tray is sprayed and raked through with Milton solution at the end of each session.**

This policy follows the guidelines of good practice as detailed in the Early Years Foundation Stage and is supported by all other policies. Newton Westpark Nursery operates a confidentiality policy in all aspects of its operations and procedures. This policy is governed by its contents.

Staff will have the opportunity to attend regular courses to help support the provision of a continually improving quality learning experience for the children in our setting.

Staff will be observing the children regularly to ensure that they know the child's stage of development and can tailor for each individual child's needs, they will then reflect on and include the different ways that children learn in their practise when planning activities. Each individual child's developmental progress will be available for their parents/carers and they will be kept up to date on how their child is progressing at nursery, please see our working in partnership with parents/ carers policy for more information.

There are plenty of activities for the children to explore of all ages, taking their appropriate stage of development into consideration, children make their own choice on which activities they want to do, we will ask the children what they would prefer to do and we do our best to implement their decisions. The staff will plan for children that attend different sessions by meeting the individual needs of all children at the heart of the EYFS and it is important to deliver personalised learning, development and care to help children get the best possible start in life.

Effective assessment involves analysing and reviewing what is known about each child's development and learning so that next steps to learning can be planned to meet their individual needs, this is called **assessment for learning** under the EYFS.

Formative Assessment - is assessment based on observations, photos, video, things children make or draw, information from parents etc.

Summative Assessment – is a summary of all the formative assessments done over a longer period and makes a statement about a child's achievements. The EYFS Profile is the summative assessment used to review children's progress along the early learning goals

Newton Westpark Nursery fully understands supports and endeavours to comply with the ethos devised through "Every Child Matters". It aims to have regard to the Code of Practise on the identification and assessment of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Talented and Gifted children in order to provide a welcome and appropriate learning environment for all children. It is our aim to help all children reach their potential. This is how we work in partnership with other settings; professional individuals in the community to support children's development and progress- please see working with other agencies policy for more information.

At 2 years old children will undertake a progress check. The Key person will record a summary on how each child is progressing in the 3 prime areas of learning, this will highlight where children are developing well and any areas where they might need any extra help and support. Parents/carers will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss this giving them the opportunity to also contribute to this information. Where possible, this will also be linked with the health visiting team.

When a child starts attending the setting parents/carers will be asked to inform staff if their child's 2 year check has been completed, this is so we can make sure we carry this out with them if it has not already been done. The 2 year check will usually be done when your child is 2 years and 4 months. If this check has been completed we ask that parents please provide any information that they received from this to help feed into their child's learning journeys and development files.

Management Signature:

Date: