



The Play Den

1 Learning and Development Requirements

Whilst your child is in our care we will ensure that their play experiences are fun, engaging and varied. We offer a balance of activities and play experiences that are planned by adults as well as those selected by your child. **(Learning and Development 1)**

All children are encouraged to self-select toys and resources. Younger children or those unable or unwilling to voice 'child choices' are encouraged to use our resources catalogue.

For children who are learning English as an additional language, we will learn key phrases and words in the child's home language and resources will be labelled accordingly. We will also ensure we provide play opportunities that take into account the child's home experiences. **(Learning and Development 1)**

Planned activities and play experiences are to extend your child development and will be organised to ensure they interest your child. **(Learning and Development 1)**

We work with you all at times to ensure we get to truly know your child as an individual as you know your child best. We do this by: **(Learning and Development 1)**

- Your child will be allocated a 'key person' to work with you and your child **(Learning and Development 1)**

- Completion of 'All About Me' upon inductions (to gather a picture of your child)
- Conduct 'baseline' assessments (to evaluate your child's starting point)
- Conversations
- E-mail/telephone/text
- Tapestry care diaries
- Tapestry online learning journals
- Newsletters
- Open door policy with management and key staff
- Parent Evenings
- Open sessions
- A comprehensive Progress Report when your child is 2 years of age
- A transfer document when your child leaves us for school
- Written feedback 3 times per year
- Notification of your child's 'Next Steps' and how you can help your child
(Learning and Development 1)

We will ensure that the learning and development requirements are met by planning and developing 'next steps' for your child that are realistic, achievable yet challenging and are based around the interests of your child.

We will ensure that your child is secure in the 'Prime' areas of development before developing the 'Specific' areas after your child is approximately 3 years old. This will ensure your child has a solid foundation for life-long learning.

The 'Prime' areas are: **(Learning and Development 1)**

- **Communication and Language** – we provide language rich environments to develop your child's confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical Development** – we provide opportunities for children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

- **Personal , Social and Emotional Development** – we help children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationship and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

The 'Specific' areas are assessed and activities are planned when your child is approximately 3 years old AND is secure in the 'Prime' areas: **(Learning and Development 1)**

Literacy – we provide a range of reading material to ignite their interest. These include books, poems and writing opportunities. We encourage children to link sounds and letters so they are ready to begin to read and write.

- **Mathematics** – we provide opportunities for children to develop and improve counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtractions problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.
- **Understanding the World** – we guide children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – we enable children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thought, ideas and feeling through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

When planning, staff take into account the different ways that children learn. These are: **(Learning and Development 1)**

- **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 and

- **Creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things

If at any stage we have concerns about your child's development, we will discuss these concerns with you and make suggestions about involving other agencies and specialist support.

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