



Curriculum overviews for The Nest



What does Personal, Social and Emotional Development look like at The Nest?

In The Nest Day Care setting our key person approach gives our youngest learners a secure base from which to form strong meaningful relationships with the staff. We will support each child to develop in their own unique way at their own pace. We foster strong warm, loving, and caring relationships in a unique home from home style approach supportive to the children's wellbeing, building emotional resilience and strengthening executive functioning. The keyworker will be the centre of our youngest learner's developmental relationships and will provide and meet all their care needs through age-appropriate support, encouraging exploration from a safe and secure base. There will always be a range of sensory activities, book times, song times, floor-based sessions where the children are able to spend quality time in a close environment with their key person.

The children will learn to feel comfortable with the staff, exploring through their senses, recognizing voices, touching, smells, expressing their preferences, and learning to engage and function with others. The children will learn how to manage their feelings and emotional needs through gentle simple routines, they will be able to follow transitions and movement around the small setting. Within our simple routines the children will experience social mealtimes enabling them to gain valuable home experiences- the dinner table encompassing self-care and living skills.

Well-being is a crucial element of our development focus at The Nest. In The Nest we will spend a great deal of time responding to the children's emotional needs, practising mindfulness, and allowing ourselves time to reflect on the learning that has taken place.

What does Physical Development look like at The Nest?

In The Nest the children will have lots of opportunities for floor-based play including tummy time, floor play for our youngest learners. The children will be learning to crawl, stand, climb, slide and balance using the indoor baby gym developing their gross motor skills. They will also take part in dancing, ring games and simple yoga to support the development of their balance and coordination. They will enjoy learning how to roll, throw and kick a ball, push, pull and ride in our bikes in our outdoor area as well as climbing up the steps on the bridge.

The children will also be encouraged to help develop the outdoor space making it an area that they can be proud of, building planting boxes, pushing the wheelbarrows, carrying watering cans to feed the plants.

We will be encouraging fine motor skill developments by mark making, sensory play experiences, posting with a range of hand eye coordination activities. The children will be encouraged to help getting dressed and undressed for a young age providing the opportunities for them to become self-sufficient as they grow within the setting.

Staff support the children's physical development by providing tactile opportunities, allowing sensory exploration, including splashing in the water, play dough, feeding themselves and pulling and pushing the toys .

What does Communication and Language look like at The Nest?

At The Nest we aim to follow "A curiosity Approach" to learning enabling all the children a wealth of open-ended opportunities encouraging children's natural curiosity to explore and create. The children's curious minds are open, flexible and their hearts trusting and generous ready to be filled with the continuous joys of learning. This approach encourages the children to open up with their language skills as they excitedly try to tell you what they have created and how they are playing. As the children are exploring and learning the adults supporting in the setting will comment on what the children are interested in or doing and echo back what they say when new vocabulary is added. We will also scaffold and extend the children's language e.g "car, yes a blue car".

In The Nest the children will be in a language rich environment surrounded by age-appropriate books for each stage of development ensuring that the children's language development is progressing appropriately. We use books and rhymes as a focus for our learning. Staff will use basic Makaton with the children at each stage of their learning to ensure that there is understanding between all. There will be a wealth of opportunities for the children to engage in stories, rhyme times, flap books, poems, and song books! The children and families will have an opportunity to take home rhyme bags and stories to promote shared communication links between home and school. Children love to look at pictures of themselves and their families and these opportunities provide a great springboard for Communication and language development.

As the children progress there will be opportunities for the children to tell their own stories, engage in simple role play with support modelling from the teacher. The children will always be supported to use language skills by reflecting and looking at their own learning journeys encouraging that two-way communication flow.