



CURRICULUM PLANNING POLICY

Statement of Intent

For children between the ages of 2 and 4 years, the pre-school provides a curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage of education. This curriculum is set out in a document, published by the Department for Education, and called the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Aim

Our aim is to provide activities that will challenge children to achieve the level the Curriculum Guidance sets for children before they start infant schools that will be appropriate for children's ages and development and make the learning experience an enjoyable one for the children.

New Millside Pre-school is a Rights Respecting Early Years Setting and has the UN Convention on the Rights of Child at the heart of its core values. We prepare the community to recognise the universality of children's rights and to support the rights of other locally and globally and ensure we have strong arrangements for protecting children from all forms of abuse and harassment.

Method

- We will plan activities around the curriculum so that all areas of the curriculum are covered in the plan.
- We will plan each week's activities so that they are varied, and children's choices are taken into consideration
- We will keep a 'learning journey' made up from photographs and observations, of each child's progress, parents will be allowed to look through and discuss it with their key worker
- We will measure each child's development by reference to the Development Matters statements, and arrange activities (on an individual basis as opposed to group work) that will help each child to reach them.
- We will keep parents informed of learning and development by way of our newsletter
- We will ask for parental involvement to support some of the activities by helping in session, bringing in materials and other items
- We will discuss the curriculum with parents at open events and on request.
- Children are listened to and encouraged to share their views and ideas, which are incorporated within the planning.

The curriculum provided by New Millside Pre-school

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by NMPS helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The guidance divides children's learning and development into 7 areas:

Personal, social and emotional development (prime area)
Communication and language development (prime area)
Mathematical development
Understanding the world
Physical development (prime area)
Literacy
Expressive arts and design

For each area, the guidance sets out development matters statements. These statements set out what it is expected children will know and be able to do by the end of the reception year of their education. The 3 prime areas work together, move through and support development in all other areas.

New Millside Pre-school uses the foundation stage curriculum to help us to trace each child's progress and to enable us to provide the right activities to help all children move towards achievement of the development matters statements.

Personal, Social and Emotional development (prime area)

This area of development encourages children to:

- Have a positive approach to learning and finding out about the world around them
- Have confidence in themselves and their ability to do things, and valuing their own achievements
- Be able to get on, work and make friendships with other people, both children and adults
- Become aware of — and being able to keep to — the rules which we all need to help us to look after ourselves, other people and our environment
- Be able to dress and undress themselves, and look after their personal hygiene needs; and
- Be able to expect to have their ways of doing things respected and to respect other people's ways of doing things

Communication and Language (prime area)

This area of development encourages children to:

- Be able to use conversation with one other person, in small groups and in large groups to talk with and listen to others
- Add to their vocabulary by learning the meaning of - and being able to use - new words
- Be able to use words to describe their experiences
- Listen and talk about stories heard

Mathematical development

This area of development encourages children to:

- Build up ideas about how many, how much, how far and how big
- Build up ideas about patterns, the shape of objects and parts of objects, and the amount of space taken up by objects
- Start to understand that numbers help us to answer questions about how many, how much, how far and how big
- Build up ideas about how to use counting to find out how many; and
- Be introduced to finding the result of adding more or taking away from the amount we already have

Understanding the World

This area of development encourages children to:

- Find out about the natural world and how it works
- Find out about the made world and how it works
- Learn how to operate simple ICT equipment, and become familiar with technology in general
- Start to put together ideas about past and present and the links between them
- Begin to learn about their locality and its special features; and
- Learn about their own and other cultures

Physical development (prime area)

This area of development encourages children to:

- Gain control over the large movements which we can make with our arms, legs and bodies, so that they can run, jump, hop, skip, roll, climb, balance and lift
- Gain control over the small movements we can make with our arms, wrists and hands, so that they can pick up and use objects, tools and materials; and
- Learn about the importance of - and how to look after - their bodies

Literacy

This area of development encourages children to:

- Link sounds and letters
- Begin to read and write

Expressive Arts and Design development

This area of development encourages children to:

- Use paint, materials, music, dance, words, stories and role-play to express their ideas and feelings; and
- Become interested in the way that paint, materials, music, dance, words, stories and role-play can be used to express ideas and feelings

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children think. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is used to plan and provide a range of play activities, which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. In some of these activities children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity. In all activities information from EYFS development matters statements is used to decide what equipment to provide and how to provide it.