

Nursery Spring Term: When You Wish Upon a Star...

A unique child + positive relationships + enabling environments = learning and development

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the Prime and Specific Areas of Learning and Development are all interconnected.

'The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment - playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically - underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.'

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING

Playing and Exploring - engagement

Finding out and exploring

- Showing curiosity about objects, events and people
- Using senses to explore the world around them
- Engaging in open-ended activity
- Showing particular interests

Being willing to 'have a go'

- Initiating activities
- Seeking challenge
- Showing a 'can do' attitude

2) Active Learning

- motivation

Being involved and concentrating

- Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time
- Showing high levels of energy, fascination
- Not easily distracted
- **Keeping on trying**
- Persisting with activity when challenges occur
- Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off
- Bouncing back after difficulties paying attention to details

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

- Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
- Being proud of how they accomplished something - not just the end result
- Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise

3) Creating and Thinking

Critically - thinking

Having their own ideas

- Thinking of ideas
- Finding ways to solve problems
- Finding new ways to do things

Making links

- Making links and noticing patterns in their experience
- Making predictions
- Testing their ideas
- Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect

Choosing ways to do things

- Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
- Checking how well their activities are going
- Changing strategy as needed
- Reviewing how well the approach worked

PRIME: Personal social and emotional development

Children will be supported to develop positive relationships with adults and peers and to play as part of a group; to take turns and share with each other. Children will be supported to develop an understanding of their feelings and the feelings of others and to develop understanding of emotions such as sadness, happiness, feeling cross or scared. Children will be supported to develop confidence and to enjoy taking more responsibility for doing things by themselves.

PRIME: Physical Development

The children will have opportunities to explore equipment and move in different ways both in the outside area and indoors. The children will be encouraged to use a range of tools and materials effectively and safely. The children will have opportunities to explore construction toys of different sizes and made from different materials.

PRIME: Communication and Language

The children will learn skills that will enable them to:

Listen with increasing attention to stories, adults and other children. Develop a greater understanding and respond to instructions. Develop confidence when speaking aloud, for example, by building up their vocabulary, talking about their experiences and by using more complex sentences to explain their thoughts.

SPECIFIC: Mathematics

This term in maths children will continue to learn about numbers through play. They will be given opportunities to count and match numbers to quantities. The children will be encouraged to join in with counting rhymes, songs and number stories. The use of mathematical language will be modelled and encouraged by talking to or questioning the children as they play.

SPECIFIC: Literacy- writing

The children will be given opportunities to draw and to engage in mark making activities. The children will be given opportunities to experiment with writing for a purpose for example, through making books about activities they have been doing. Children will be supported to recognise and write their own names.

SPECIFIC: Literacy - reading

Children will continue to have opportunities to listen to stories and rhymes. They will be encouraged to join in with repeated rhymes and phrases in stories and rhymes. Children will be encouraged to talk about different aspects of stories looked at and have regular opportunities to share story books with adults.

SPECIFIC: Understanding the World

The children will discover the world around them by learning about:
People and communities - children will be encouraged to talk about themselves and their experiences. They will be supported and introduced to vocabulary that is related to their observations.
The world - explore the nursery environment and to look closely at a range of objects, both natural and man-made.
Technology - become familiar and use safely different pieces of ICT equipment, for example, the classroom computer and IWB

SPECIFIC: Expressive Arts and Design

Through art, music and drama the children will:

- join in with dancing, ring-games and sing songs
- move in response to music
- use various construction materials
- have opportunities to explore different textures and colour through a range of experiences
- engage in imaginative role-play based on their first hand experiences