

## **Curriculum Policy**

In order to learn effectively children need a positive, secure environment with caring and supportive adults. All that we do at Once Upon a Time is based on this premise.

### **Aims**

- To provide a safe, welcoming educational environment where children are encouraged to develop to their full potential
- To encourage emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development
- To foster high levels of confidence and self esteem in children
- To promote positive attitudes and respect for self and others
- To value each child as a unique individual
- To create confident eager and enthusiastic learners who thoroughly enjoy school
- To support, encourage and praise children

Our Curriculum is based on the concept that children learn through hands on experience and play. Children will be presented with plenty of opportunities and experiences to develop in the following areas:

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

The importance of personal, emotional and social development cannot be over emphasized particularly for young children. Starting a new school can be an anxious and unsettling experience for all. We will endeavor to make the transition smooth and easy with familiar routines and effective support for children and parents/guardians.

*Children will:*

- Be encouraged to become independent
- Develop a sense of personal hygiene
- Learn to eat in an appropriate manner with others
- Be made aware of rules for their own safety and understand the importance of them
- Learn to share and co-operate with others
- Develop respect for individuals, personal belongings and the environment
- Be given opportunities to express emotions and develop confidence
- Learn when and how to ask for help, but be encouraged to complete tasks that at first seem difficult
- Become aware of religious and cultural festivities and the significance they hold for the individual

## **Physical Development**

Fine and gross motor skills will be developed through involvement in regular exercise and games.

*Children will:*

- Participate in and enjoy energetic activities both indoors and outdoors
- Explore different ways in which they can use their bodies
- Co-operate with others during physical activities
- Be provided with opportunities and space to run, skip, jump, balance, throw and catch with increased confidence
- Develop increasing control over fine movements
- Develop spatial awareness
- Understand the benefits and importance of health and fitness

## **Communication, Language and Literacy**

Children will be presented with opportunities to develop both oral and listening skills encouraging a rich use of language. Children will be encouraged to develop positive attitudes towards literacy and positive reinforcement from staff will ensure that children experiment in the area of emergent reading and writing. The use of cues will be promoted and children will develop literacy and language skills through listening to stories, telling stories, exploring literature and through the use of a range of engaging media.

*Children will:*

- Be encouraged to listen to children and adults during social activities and play
- Listen and respond to stories, rhymes, poems and songs
- Follow instructions
- Use books to find interesting information, tell stories and recognize letters and words
- Develop awareness of letter names and sounds in the context of play experiences
- Use writing implements to express feelings and ideas
- Experiment with symbols, letters and words in writing
- Recognize familiar words and letters, for example the first initial in their name

## **Mathematical Development**

Through experiential learning children will develop an awareness of mathematical concepts and will begin to develop a mathematical vocabulary. Through the provision of structured and unstructured play activities and adult support children will be encouraged to investigate and explore mathematical constructs.

*Children will:*

- Develop an appreciation of colors and shapes around them
- Develop an awareness of mathematical concepts such as weight, measurement, sorting, matching, grouping, counting and time
- Develop an understanding of numbers, counting and values
- Begin to apply mathematical concepts to develop problem solving skills

## **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

This area of the curriculum is gained through experience; we will provide an interesting range of learning activities

Experiential learning    Fun experiences    Scientific vocabulary    Problem solving

*Children will:*

- Use the senses to develop a greater environmental awareness
- Develop an understanding of properties of materials (soft, hard, smooth, rough etc)
- Appreciate daily time schedules using words relating to time (first, next, morning, snack time etc)
- Understand how to care for living things e.g. plants and animals
- Understand the importance of personal hygiene, healthy diet, exercise, and personal safety

## **Creative Development**

Children learn effectively when they encounter experiences and resources that stimulate their curiosity. Creative development encourages them to express, explore, communicate their ideas and experiment with them. It encourages them to express their feelings, solve problems, take risks and develop their own ideas.

*Children will:*

- Investigate and use a variety of materials and techniques such as painting, drawing, printing and modelling with clay and other materials
- Express thoughts and feelings through the medium of pictures, paintings and modelling
- Use role play or puppets to dramatize situations and events
- Listen and respond to sounds, rhythms, songs and a variety of music
- Make music by singing, clapping and using percussion instruments
- Develop gross motor skills through dance and movement activities

We will ensure that children at Once Upon a Time have a sense of belonging and are valued as individuals. We will build on what they already know and help them to develop at their own pace and reach their full potential. Our curriculum is balanced to provide all round development.

We will work in partnership with parents so they can be proud of what their children achieve both at home and at the nursery.

Parental views are sought on Curriculum and are welcomed at all times in order to strive to continuously improve.