

'In The Moment Planning'

A Parent's Guide

Dear Parents / Carers,

From September this year we have changed how we plan, teach, assess and review your child's progress at Pre School. The main purpose of this is to ensure children become more confident, independent learners. We let children choose what they want to do and join with them in their learning to extend and develop this through what we know as 'teachable moments'.

Instead of what used to be a longer process of planning for children's next steps, and struggling to get children to the activities 'planned' to meet these next steps, these moments are now taught instantly when a child shows a 'spark' of interest in something. It means that staff will work much more closely with the children and extend their learning 'in the moment'.

Why are we making these changes?

The Early Years Foundation Stage states:

"Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development for each child in their care, and MUST use this information to plan challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child in all areas of learning and development." This fits perfectly with our way of planning and teaching. We treat every child as an individual, working alongside Parents / Carers to plan and educate your children to allow them to achieve to their utmost potential.

What is 'In the Moment' planning?

- It allows child initiated learning through play, based on capturing the interests of the children through
- Our qualified and experienced practitioners take into consideration the children's interests to create meaningful educational experiences through providing an enabling environment using quality interactions and 'teachable moments'.
- The key elements for 'In the Moment' planning to be successful are;
 1. The Environment
 2. Quality Interactions
 3. Observation

What are the 'teachable moments'?

We recognise that children often learn in a more informal and creative way. Staff will be looking for opportunities to allow learning opportunities to take place through child-initiated play alongside providing challenge and open ended questioning when needed.

What will we do?

We will provide an environment and opportunities that stimulate curiosity and challenge thinking.
We will observe and listen closely to children's play.
We will work in partnership with parents to create environments that will spark the children's interest.
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How do we record the children's learning?

Every week, we will select a small group of 'focus children' from the group. These children will be observed, assessed and planned for to meet their needs. Each child will be a focus child at least once per term, for 1 week. When your child has been chosen you will receive a document to complete with details about your child that you may want to share e.g. any exciting news, things happening at home etc.. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and to send in / email photos of your child at home. Please ensure you return these sheets, and photos by the date stated on the sheet as they are also important to support documentation of your child's learning and progression. We will then record all observations and photos in your child's learning journey and after their 'focus' week, we will ask you to meet with your child's key person to discuss their progress and to discuss with you any next steps that we will be working on with your child in the future.

What happens when my child isn't a 'focus child'?

We will be doing exactly the same with your child when they are focus children or not, the difference only being that observations are only 'written' if they are 'WOW' moments for the other children. They will still be learning, challenged, and receive just as many varied experiences, that are extended 'in the moment' by our staff. All areas of the EYFS will be covered at every session.

Will we still be including Numeracy and Literacy?

Yes, Numeracy and Literacy/Letters and Sounds are both still key areas within the EYFS and we will cover both through numerous play based activities during our sessions, both indoors and out.

Lift Off to Language sessions will still be running for small groups of children each half term, to support the development of speech, language, listening, attention and self-confidence and self-awareness.

We are looking forward to embracing this new way of learning and seeing your child flourish throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support. Kind Regards, Pre School Staff team 😊