



## 3. Curriculum Development Policy

At Little Joey's Nursery our overall aim is to offer a range of activities, opportunities and experiences that enable children to learn, develop skills, confidence and independence. We provide a broad, balanced curriculum that covers all the Development Matters and characteristics of Effective Learning in the EYFS curriculum.

**The EYFS covers Birth to Five Years and follows four themes:**

- **A unique Child** - every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive Relationships** - children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- **Enabling Environment** - children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.
- **Learning and Developing** - children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

We plan the environment with opportunities for learning, then carefully observe each child's interaction and response, noticing the way they encounter the resources, environment and each other. This then leads to a series of professional questions about how we may extend the interests of the children and develop their skills as 'communicators'. Observations are linked back to the EYFS development bands so we are able to make a professional judgement about each child's skills and capabilities. These observations, encounters and learning stories are regularly shared with parents/carers, who often contribute feedback.

### **Key Characteristics of Effective Learning:**

- **Playing and Exploring** - We observe ways in which children demonstrate curiosity about objects, events and people. Noticing whether they engage in open ended play and how they may use their senses to explore the world around them. We observe the extent children will initiate activities or seek challenge, do they have a 'can do' attitude and are they willing to take a risk in their play, learning with trial and error.
- **Active Learning** - This focuses upon children being able to become involved in play, and maintaining activities for appropriate periods of time. Children may demonstrate a particular interest or bounce back after experiencing difficulties. We can also notice when children are proud of accomplishing their goals and when they look for praise.
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** - We observe how children approach problems, thinking of different ways to do things and new ideas to try. They may test their ideas and talk about cause and effect. We notice if children are planning, evaluating and changing strategy, reviewing their approach to more challenging tasks.

All these characteristics help us to identify each child's particular learning style and strengths.

There are seven areas of learning and development which are interconnected. Three areas (Prime Areas) are crucial to develop lifelong learning and to help children form relationships.

**Personal Social and emotional** - Children develop confidence and Self-esteem and learn how to manage feelings and respect others.

**Communication and language** - children have opportunities to speak and listen in a range of situations and experience a rich language environment.

**Physical Development** - children have opportunities to be active and develop coordination (both gross motor and fine motor) they learn about healthy choices.

These prime areas are strengthened and applied through the following four specific areas;

**Literacy** - involves children learning how letters link to the sounds and begin to read and write.

**Mathematics** - children have opportunities to develop counting and calculation skills, to use numbers in everyday activities and to recognise and describe shapes and measures.

**Understanding of the world** - children have opportunities to find out about people and communities, the environment and technology.

**Expressive Arts and Design** - involves exploring feeling and ideas through music, dance, role play and design.

We aim to help children with their learning through observing, getting involved in their play, supporting their thinking and asking open ended questions.

# Learning Journeys

Learning journeys are personal records of each child's significant experiences in which they have demonstrated particular interest or learning skills. The observations are generally based upon a child-initiated activity where they can demonstrate their interests and understanding. They will contain learning summaries and next steps. The purpose is to make learning visible and ensure each child's capabilities are recognised and valued. Parents are actively encouraged to contribute to Learning Journeys.

Date

Signed

Review date