

FIRST STEPS NURSERY

Admission to Nursery Policy

When a child is enrolled at First Steps Nursery we explain to parents that our policies and procedures are available for them to read at any time and on signing the nursery contract they are stating that they are also going to abide by our rules and procedures. We ensure all records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of our nursery which also promote the welfare, care and learning of the children, are maintained to a high standard.

We explain to parents that staff observe children's development and keep records, which help us meet the child's needs. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parents on a regular basis.

We explain that there are forms to fill in when enrolling their child so that we can plan for his/her individual needs. We also keep separate files on accident, medication and incidents that are kept in the child's individual file. Registers of the names of the children attending the nursery are completed daily stating the times they arrive and leave and with whom.

We have an inclusion policy and staff actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children. All staff understands that all children need to feel valued and be free from discrimination. We also carefully organise and monitor the nursery to ensure all children have access to the full range of activities.

If you would like your child to join the nursery we ask for a 2 weeks deposit of your weekly fee. We hold this on your account until you give notice for your child to leave, this will then be taken off your final balance. Once a deposit has been paid and admission form as been filled in, we will invite you and your child for a settling in visit. The first hour is free for you to attend, every visit afterwards is payable.

Currently all three and four year olds are eligible to receive free nursery education sessions for up to 38 weeks a year. We currently provide full and half days in nursery and take your child's free nursery education grant off the nursery fees you currently pay. We also offer 'free nursery places' using the 15/30 hour government funded places term time only. These sessions are either 3 mornings or 3 afternoons for 5 hours each session, or three full days 8am-6pm, we also offer free meals including snack, this offer does not include breakfast. On term time child places you can also add extra days if you wish term time also.

Benefits of taking up the Free Offer of Nursery Education

Research has shown that children who receive good quality pre-school education acquire the skills they need to make good progress at school. They gain the social and communication skills required to become confident and happy learners.

At First Steps Nursery we follow The Early Years Foundation Stage, which set the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five enabling children to achieve the outcomes of Every Child Matters.

It is an exciting time for children as they learn through play based activities to become more independent and develop their own identity. Your child will enjoy a curriculum that is organised around seven areas of learning.

Through the three prime **areas of learning**: personal, social and emotional development; communication and language; and physical development.

The **prime areas** are important because they lay the foundations for children's success in all other **areas** of learning and of life:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**
- **Physical Development.**
- **Communication and Language**

Along with four specific **areas of learning**:

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the world**
- **Expressive arts and design**

The **characteristics of effective learning** are a key element in the early year's foundation stage. They detail the ways in which children should be **learning** from their environment, experiences and activities. Children up to the age of five should all be displaying the **characteristics of effective learning** every day.

The concept of **learner characteristics** is used in the sciences of learning and cognition to designate a target group of **learners** and define those aspects of their personal, academic, social, or cognitive self that may influence how and what they learn.

Play underpins the **EYFS**. It also underpins learning and all aspects of children's development. Through **play**, children develop language skills, their emotions and creativity, social and intellectual skills. We value **play** and provide safe but challenging environments that support and extend learning and development.

Learning through play is a term used in education and psychology to describe how a child can learn to make sense of the world around them. **Through play** children can develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments

Toys are **fun**, but toys are also tools that help children learn about themselves and the world around them. Play is critical to the healthy growth and development of children. As children play, they learn to solve problems, to get along with others and to develop the fine and gross motor skills needed to grow and learn.

Play is an **important** part of a child's early development. **Playing** helps young children's brains to develop and for their language and communication skills to mature. They teach young children about communication develop their motor skills and help with problem-solving.

Play provides opportunities for exploration, experimentation and manipulation that are essential for constructing knowledge. **Learning** through **play** promotes the development of social, emotional and intellectual abilities of a child. It is through **play** that children develop their imagination and creativity.

Play helps **children** gain healthy emotional development because it allows them to express their conscious and unconscious experiences regarding their feelings about their life and things that are going on around them. **Play** is important to a child's neurological development

Things to Consider

The most important decision is to choose the type of setting that will best meet the particular needs of your child and your family. When choosing a setting consider the following:

- ❖ What type of setting is best suited to your child's personality?
- ❖ If required, is there any additional childcare offered by the provider?

Many parents benefit from this combination of education and care as it enables them to work, study or train knowing that their children are being cared for in a suitable environment.

The vision for our nursery is to promote and achieve better outcomes for all: "A vision of a just and harmonious society of which children and young people are valued and respected members: supported and encouraged as they grow, by their parents, friends and family and other adults in the community" (Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006-07)

All our work within the nursery is based on achieving the five outcomes through shared strategies and innovative approaches under the guidance of Every Child Matters and Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

- **Be Healthy**
- **Staying Safe**
- **Enjoying and Achieving**
- **Making a Positive Contribution**
- **Achieving Economic Well-Being**