



## **Care, learning and play policy**

***Daisy Chain nurseries meet children's individual care needs and promote their welfare. We plan and provide experiences and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities appropriate to their individual needs.***

Children are encouraged to be confident and independent, and every effort is made to develop their self-esteem and learning through play from the moment they first come to a Daisy Chain nursery.

Activities are carefully selected to offer first hand experiences that allow children to build their natural curiosity, develop their language and mathematical thinking, use their imagination, and develop positive social relationships.

A range of age appropriate equipment is always available to support learning, including an excellent selection of story and reference books along with sand, water and creative materials.

Daisy Chain nurseries offer children regular access to natural resources and everyday items.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage**

Daisy Chain nurseries work within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. We aim to help young children achieve the five Every Child Matters Outcomes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being by:

- **Setting the standards for learning development and care**
- **Providing for equality of opportunity**
- **Creating the framework for partnership working**
- **Improving quality and consistency**
- **Laying a secure foundation for future learning**

We recognise that all children have from birth a need to develop, learning through interaction with people and exploration of the world around them.

For some children this development may be at risk because of difficulties with communication and interaction, cognition and learning, behavioural, emotional and social development or sensory and physical development.

The framework takes as its focus **the child** it celebrates the skill and competence of babies and young children and highlights the interrelationship between growth, learning and development and the environment in which they are cared for and educated.

**The Early Years Foundation Stage Principles:** are grouped into four distinct but complimentary themes.

- A unique child
- Positive relationships
- Enabling environments
- Learning and development

All Daisy Chain staff working with children, receive training in the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure they have a clear understanding of these principles.

Activities and play opportunities are carefully planned to develop children's imagination and creativity as well as meeting their care, learning and play needs, and developing emotional, physical, social and intellectual abilities. Planning is informed by careful observation and assessment of each child's progress.

Daily access to outdoor play is provided in every nursery, and where possible children can move freely between activities indoors and outdoors.

There are opportunities for children to engage in activities planned by adults, and also those they plan or initiate themselves. Children do not make a distinction between play and work and neither do we. Children need time to become engrossed, work in depth, initiate and complete activities.

Well-planned, purposeful experiences, activities, appropriate teaching and intervention by practitioners engage children in their learning process and help them make progress in their learning. We provide a well-planned and organised learning environment which offers children rich and stimulating experiences and opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves.



The curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage underpins all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing children's –

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Understanding of the world
- Literacy
- Expressive arts and design
- Mathematics

Play helps children to make connections in their learning. Staff at Daisy Chain nurseries help children to bring together what they know in a connected and holistic way by:

- Observing children at play
- Using their observations to support and extend play by planning and resourcing a challenging environment
- Evaluation the provision
- Creating appropriate stepping stones with particular children in mind to help children to learn through their play and develop towards the Early Learning Goals
- Engaging in the play, and encouraging the development of communication through play
- Knowing when to take a back seat, and let children develop their play without adult intervention.

Each child's development through the Early Years Foundation Stage is monitored and evaluated to ensure they are making progress and that any particular difficulties in any area of learning, whatever the cause, are identified and addressed.