

Daisy and Rainbow Childcare prides itself on offering a play-based, child-centred approach to early years education. We provide a stimulating and purposeful environment which enables children to feel safe to develop as sociable, confident, autonomous learners. We plan for children's interests, preoccupations and schemas as we recognise this enables them to engage in high levels of learning. The experiences are well-planned, high quality and play-based, they are developmentally appropriate and differentiated to enable children to extend their learning.

We aim to develop the whole child. We nurture children's self-confidence and self-esteem as this is a key to opening children's positive attitudes to learning. We work to the prime and specific areas of learning from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and strongly believe that children learn best through a cross-curricular approach. We recognise some children do have specific strengths yet we also seek to balance these against developing their needs in other areas. We address children's differing needs through questioning which caters for their individual responses, develops their language and thinking, therefore extending their learning.

Children are learning through play and the long-term benefits are widely known:

- Children need large physical movement to support their muscle development so they can develop their mark-making skills and enable effective writing at a later stage.
- A significant amount of learning takes place through imaginative play – young children practise speaking and listening, social interactions, play out personal anxieties and enjoy escaping into a world of their own.
- Communication, speaking and listening are essential skills which they practise while playing and learning with their peers and adults.
- Through our cross-curricular links children gain an insight into the purpose of learning, for example paper and pencils may be found throughout the setting both inside and outside to enable children to write for a purpose i.e. shopping lists, petrol orders, making lists of insects they have seen or writing parking tickets for the wheeled toys. Likewise, we will be encouraging the use of numerical skills throughout the setting by providing sorting and counting opportunities, and having numbers and shapes readily available to view.
- Soft play areas are utilised widely to support early movement skills enabling future effective brain functioning and sense of self.

Children learn more between birth and seven than they do in the rest of their lives. We need to be mindful of this huge learning curve which our young children are undertaking and give them time to consolidate their learning through play.

We have utilised a document called 'Letters and Sounds' which outlines appropriate activities for supporting young children with their speech and language development. We encourage children to develop their concentration, listening, language and language manipulation skills which will support them to become confident learners and communicators.

We utilise a model of PAWS play which provides stage appropriate focused activity to all children.

Policy formulated on: March 2008

Policy last reviewed on: Oct 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Judy Westcott*