

Care, Learning and Play

We are committed to meeting the individual needs of all children. The welfare of the children is central to our provision of care, learning and play. All children are respected and valued and we provide experiences to support their physical, social, emotional and intellectual development in a warm, caring and secure environment. Through carefully planned activities, play opportunities and interactions, staff promote children's self-esteem and support them in developing skills, knowledge and understanding as they explore their world. Children are encouraged and supported in making choices and decisions as active learners. Their progress is monitored regularly in order to ensure that individual needs are identified and provided for.

Planning

Planning for the children's learning consists of:-

- A long-term plan for the year
- Medium-term plans specifying each term's outline plans. This ensures breadth and balance of the curriculum, as well as a variety of planned and free choice activities
- Weekly and daily plans for activities

- We will provide a wide range of experiences and activities in order that children can learn through first-hand experiences and play
- We have established systems for planning children's experiences which reflect their individual needs
- We will monitor the progress of individual children and record this regularly and share this information with parents and carers
- We will encourage children to build relationships and develop self-esteem
- We will respect and value all the children, whatever their background, and we encourage staff and children to treat each other with respect

We will encourage children in their activities and provide support and reassurance for new experiences. We will give appropriate praise to support their efforts and achievements. We will allocate each child a key worker who monitors progress and ensures that the child's needs are met. This member of staff provides the link between The Ark and home. The key worker will also manage communication between The Ark and the parents or carers, particularly on routine matters, and the child's progress.

Learning and play

- We will offer the children a broad and balanced curriculum which follows the Early Years Foundation Stage
- We will offer a variety of activities, both planned and free choice, which provide opportunities to learn through play
- We will offer a mixture of active and quiet times throughout the day, and the children will have opportunities to participate in both indoor and outdoor activities
- We will take every opportunity to further individual children's communication skills in speaking and listening

- We will encourage the children to look at books and seek opportunities to read stories to, and with, them
- We will develop early mathematical skills through everyday routines, as well as through planned experiences and games
- We will provide activities which engage the children in problem-solving and investigation
- We will stimulate the children's imaginative and creative development through a range of activities, including: role play; a variety of painting, modelling and drawing experiences, both planned and free-choice; singing and dancing to music, as well as listening to music and playing instruments
- We will encourage the children to make choices and decisions during free play. We will also expect them, supported by adults, to take appropriate responsibility for the care and maintenance of resources
- We will make resources accessible to the children, wherever possible, in order that they can choose their activities independently
- We will label all resources so that children can find and return resources and equipment safely and easily
- We will ensure the safe use and storage of resources by the children, but we also support their independence and problem-solving abilities