

Group planning



As part of our daily routines, we plan a curriculum to support children's learning. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is our statutory framework and it requires us to plan for the individual child and to plan some adult-guided sessions to teach the children new things.

We use our daily routines to support the child's learning – our routines include the things we have to do during the day such as school runs, meal times and outings, alongside group and individual planning. Our group activities cover all 7 areas of learning – communication and language; personal, social and emotional development; physical development; literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; expressive art and design.

We have a blended curriculum here – this means that the child's days are a mixture of free play inside and in the garden, regular outings into the local community, our daily routines, individually planned activities for the child to enjoy and, as they get older, our group planned teaching. Some days the planned activities don't happen and free play takes over because the children are happy and engaged.

We use our group planning to teach the children more about the world in which they live, for example:

- The child might be interested in dinosaurs and we will plan activities to help them learn more.
- It might be winter and we will plan activities to teach them about the weather, winter food, winter animals and winter throughout the world.
- There might be a local, national or world festival or special day we want to mark with the children such as another child's birthday, an open day at the local Fire Station or a religious celebration.
- We teach the children about the weather through the year – maybe it's snowing outside or it was foggy when the child woke up.

We always start a new group activity with a book and try to weave in songs and rhymes in addition to our planned activities. We recognise the importance of ensuring the children are motivated and engaged during activities and we never ask them to do anything which is not age-appropriate. For example, we do not ask children to sit for extended periods of time or to fill in worksheets – where possible, children are up and moving, with activities on different surfaces to help strengthen their bodies.

If you have any questions about our group planning, please ask. Thank you.

Childcare Happy Days
March 2022