Care, Learning & Play Policy

Policy Statement: At Little Elms Preschool we are committed to providing outstanding care, enriching learning opportunities, and engaging play experiences that support the holistic development of each child, in alignment with the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, September 2025).

Holistic Development:

- We support children's comprehensive development—physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and creative—ensuring balanced growth and learning in line with EYFS 2025 standards.
- Individualised activities and experiences are planned according to each child's unique interests, needs, and developmental milestones.

Learning Through Play:

- Play is central to children's learning and development, and we actively integrate play-based activities that foster exploration, critical thinking, creativity, and curiosity.
- Emphasis is placed on child-initiated play, guided by adult support to extend learning opportunities naturally and effectively.

Age-Appropriate Activities:

- Activities are carefully planned and adapted to meet the developmental stages, interests, and individual abilities of each child, ensuring inclusivity and active engagement.
- Diverse learning experiences cater to varied learning styles and developmental needs.

Learning Environment:

- We maintain a secure, stimulating, and inclusive environment designed to inspire children's curiosity, imagination, discovery, and independence.
- High-quality resources and materials are thoughtfully selected to encourage exploration, creativity, and learning aligned with EYFS 2025 guidance.

Observations and Assessments:

- Ongoing, sensitive, and respectful observations and formative assessments inform personalised planning, supporting each child's progress and development.

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- Parents are actively involved in assessment discussions, celebrating milestones, and identifying next steps collaboratively.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

- Clear, achievable, and personalized learning objectives are established for each child, informed by EYFS areas of learning, developmental milestones, and children's individual interests and needs.
- Planning is responsive and adaptive, ensuring that learning experiences remain relevant and engaging.

Inclusive Practices:

- We foster an inclusive setting, celebrating diversity and ensuring all children feel valued, respected, and included in all activities.
- Adaptations and support are provided to ensure equitable participation for every child, regardless of background or ability.

Outdoor Play and Exploration:

- Outdoor play is prioritized, providing daily opportunities for children to interact with nature, develop physical skills, and enhance their understanding of the world.
- Outdoor areas are regularly inspected and equipped with diverse, age-appropriate, and stimulating resources.

Creative Expression:

- Opportunities for creative and imaginative expression are integral, with children encouraged to explore various art forms, music, dance, role-play, and crafts.
- Creative resources are accessible, safe, and designed to stimulate innovation, imagination, and self-expression.

Continuous Improvement:

- Commitment to ongoing improvement includes regularly seeking feedback from staff, parents, and external professionals to refine and enhance our practices.
- Staff participate in ongoing professional development, ensuring they remain informed about current EYFS best practices and emerging research in early childhood education.

Reviewed by Samantha Willers
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