

Purpose and Aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life and chances. A secure, safe, happy childhood is important, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. When parents choose to use early years services, they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. The Early Years Foundation Stage is the framework that provides that assurance.

Our main aim is to help young children achieve the outcomes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being. We do this by:

- Setting the standards for the learning, development and care that young children should experience when they attend a setting outside their family home, ensuring that every child makes progress and that no child gets left behind;
- Providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and ensuring that every child is included and not disadvantaged because of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties or disabilities, gender or ability;
- Creating a partnership between parents and professionals, and between all the settings that the child attends;
- Laying a secure foundation for future learning through learning and development that is planned around the individual needs and interests of every child and using ongoing observations to assess each child

Piccolo Aims

Physical Environment

We aim to make our environment safe, secure, stimulating and fun for all our children and the staff.

Resources are plentiful, user friendly and applicable to the age of the children for whom we cater. Our aim is to make the indoor and outdoor environment a seamless transition for all the children.

Displays are bright, stimulating and interactive. Children share their ideas and their work is displayed for all to see. The fabrics and furnishings are clean, bright and safe. The whole environment responds to the needs of the children.

People

We foster positive attitudes to learning, trust, confidence, curiosity, responsibility and independence.

We recruit qualified staff and we are committed to training programmes for staff development.

We have staff induction procedures and a valuable staff appraisal system. Management roles are clearly defined.

We have introduced a staff handbook and a student and volunteer statement. All staff are able to add to any of these procedures.

Relationships

Our aim is to establish and maintain good relationships with parents, carers, children and other providers.

We encourage children to forge good relationships with their peer group and all members of staff.

We ensure staff have a good working relationship with all other members of the staff.

We encourage children to make friendship bonds with children in the Reception class to ease transition into the school setting.

Partnerships

We aim to work in partnership with parents, carers, families, other providers and outside professional bodies.

We form links within the local community in a variety of ways.

Students

The Piccolo Group offers placements to students following BTech and NVQ courses at St Austell College. This gives them the opportunity to gain experience in a quality setting where they are supervised at all times. We sometimes offer placements to mature students who want to take up a career in child care. They are able to gain experience under supervision.

Play and Learning

Well planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. In playing, they behave in different ways; sometimes their play will be boisterous, sometimes they will describe and discuss what they are doing, sometimes they will be quiet and reflective as they play.

The role of the Piccolo staff is crucial in:

- Planning and resourcing a challenging environment:
- Supporting children's learning through planned play activity:
- Extending and supporting children's spontaneous play:
- Extending and developing children's language and communication in their play.

Through play, in a secure environment with effective adult support, children can:

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them make sense of the world:
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills:
- Learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules:
- Be alone, be alongside others or cooperate as they talk or rehearse their feelings:
- Take risks and make mistakes:
- Think creatively and imaginatively:
- Communicate with others as they investigate or solve problems:
- Express fears or relive anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

Sustainability

To ensure that the group continues to provide excellent childcare at the lowest cost possible to parents and carers, ensuring that funds are carefully controlled and monitored in order to sustain the group's viability.

Curriculum

Our aim is to provide educational experiences to cover the seven areas of learning based on the revised 'The Early Years Foundation Stage'

Planning

To present the children with a planned programme, that fosters learning, is challenging and progressive.

It will recognise the children's previous knowledge and experiences and also encourage the children to plan their own learning incorporating their interests.

We have a commitment to involve all staff and the children in this process.

We ensure the children's individual needs and cultural needs are catered for.

Assessment

Our aim is to provide a system that uses regular direct observations, focussed assessments charts and targets for the children. Parents are regularly informed of their child's progress by means of 'Open Evenings' with the child's Key Person. Assessment helps to inform future planning and builds on the child's prior learning and experience. The child's Learning Journey is regularly updated and passed on to the child's next place of learning.

Use of Space

The Piccolo setting has a classroom, a large outdoor space and a cloakroom with two toilets. The classroom is divided to cover the seven areas of learning. The toilets and cloakroom are easily accessed by the children.

The large outdoor space is divided into four areas:-

- A tarmac covered area, which is used for wheeled toys and in inclement weather.
- A covered area where children can play in all weathers.
- An area behind the building, which is also covered where the children can dig in Cornish beach shingle and make use of a variety of sand toys. A large grassed area at the back of the building, which is used for a variety of activities.
- There is also a shaded area within the grassed area for use during the hot summer weather.

There are two wooden sheds which house the outdoor play equipment. During the fine weather we have picnic tables where the children can enjoy snack or a picnic.

The whole setting is surrounded by a wooden fence with security gates that the children cannot open but are easily opened in an emergency.

The extended Piccolo Group uses the school hall for their morning sessions. The area fulfils all Ofsted standards. It is fully resourced for two year old and three year old children who can access equipment with ease.

We have use of two play areas in the front and back of the building.

There are security gates to the front of the building and doors are double locked with security codes to prevent unauthorised access.

The children also use the Piccolo grassed area.

Access

Access to the group is through the gate and the main door in the Piccolo room. A formal register of attendance is taken at the beginning of each session Please ensure that you book your child in with the duty member of staff when your child arrives so that the time can be logged.

Children are collected from the gate into the setting. A member of staff will bring your child to you. Children will only be handed over to their main carer unless you have previously given permission for another person to collect your child. For security reasons this must be adhered to. If you need to collect your child before the end of the session you will need to arrange this with the duty member of staff when you enter the session. You will be required to sign your child out under these circumstances.

Access for 2 year olds

Access for 2 year olds is through the door in the hall. A formal register of attendance is taken at the beginning of each session. Please ensure that you book your child in with the duty member of staff when your child arrives so that the time can be logged.

At the end of the session children are collected from the gate into the setting. A member of staff will bring your child to you. Children will only be handed over to their main carer unless you have previously given written permission for another person to collect your child. For security reasons this must be adhered to.

If you need to collect your child before the end of the session you will need to arrange this with the duty member of staff when you enter the session. You will be required to sign your child out under these circumstances.

Clothing

The children should wear sensible clothing in which they are able to play outside, and take part in the many varied activities we undertake ,many of which are messy.

The children are encouraged to play outdoors and have access to the outdoors at all times. Please ensure that your child has a coat and a pair of Wellington boots in the winter and suitable protection from the sun in the summer. We like to go and splash in the puddles and run on the grass even when wet.

All children need a spare set of clothes which are named and in a named bag.

If your child is using nappies please supply a bag with nappies and wet wipes for our staff to change your child.

It is essential that their clothing is clearly labelled.

For 2 year olds we ask that you supply your own nappies, wet wipes and a spare set of clothes every day in a marked bag to enable staff for care for your child as appropriate. It is useful if your child also has a pair of wellies in the setting.

Library Books

The children are encouraged to take books home to share with their family. These books will be changed regularly.

We work closely with Bookstart, a government –funded scheme providing free books for children from birth - 4 years.

Parents and carers are more than welcome to visit the group, help out or just pop in for a chat about any issues that may concern you.

Policies and Procedures

We conform to the 'Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements' as set out in Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

There are detailed policies and procedures set out for the Piccolo Group that must be adhered to at all times.

There are copies of our policies and the EYFS for parents to access in the Piccolo setting. A full copy of our recent Ofsted report is available from Mrs Stubbs on request.