

## **Newton Longville Pre-School – Our Curriculum**

The aim of our curriculum is to equip children with the skills and knowledge they need to explore and understand the world around them.

The teaching and learning of new skills and knowledge are delivered through both adult and child-led opportunities both indoor and outdoors.

We focus on the importance of knowledge and skills that will support children in every way possible so that they can make the most of the opportunities and fulfill their potential along with promoting their independence.

We believe that children grow and develop when they have access to a well thought out learning environment and engaged adults.

There are 7 areas of learning and development within the Early Years Curriculum.

### **The prime areas of learning**

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language development
- Physical development

### **Specific areas of learning**

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

When planning for children, we consider the different ways in which children learn. The three characteristics of effective learning are;

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Over time we plan to offer a range of experiences to support the children's knowledge, skills and development. Some of these include;

- Planting seeds and watching them grow and learn about what has been grown
- Meeting people from the local community who help us. For example; Police, doctor etc
- Walks around the local area and trips to the local park
- Raising money for charities
- Baking activities

We will celebrate a range of festivals and share special occasions with the children throughout the year. Some of these include;

- Shared meals and food tasting
- Dressing up
- Dancing and singing to music
- Books and stories
- Special visitors
- Making and decorating cards and crafts

At Newton Longville Preschool we focus on making sure transitions to school go as smoothly as possible. We work closely with our village school as well as other local schools to ensure all relevant transition supporting documents are completed and relayed to the school of your choice to ensure a positive transition. Where possible, the school teachers are encouraged to visit the setting and meet the children.

### **Assessment**

Assessment links our children's learning to our curriculum.

Most of the assessments we do at Preschool are formative so that it quickly helps us to make a difference in children's learning. We need to have an overview of children's progress, so that we can take further actions where needed. We notice what children we can and can't do. We are good at deciding when it will be helpful to step in and support and when it's best to be encouraging but hang back. We make sure children are secure in what they know and can do before introducing them to something new. We will observe your child whilst they are playing and take opportunities to introduce new skills and ideas.

- We complete baseline assessments of the child's development shortly after they start with us. This is completed in partnership with parents.
- We complete termly summative assessment of where the child's development is in relation to typical milestones and characteristics of effective learning.
- When a child leaves we complete a summative assessment of where the child's development is in relation to typical milestones, the characteristics of effective learning, child's interests and any other relevant comments about the child's time with us.

Assessment helps us with the following;

- Early identification of children who need temporary extra help and children who may have special educational needs.
- Checking each individual child and groups of children are making progress and taking prompt action where this is not the case.
- Reporting formally and involving parents in the statutory 2 year progress check
- Celebrate children's achievements and share focus for learning.
- Discussions with other professionals who may be involved with a child e.g. health visitor or social worker.
- Sharing information with receiving schools in the summer so that children can continue their learning journey through the EYFS as seamlessly as possible.
- We will be observing your child whilst they are playing and taking opportunities to introduce new skills and ideas.

### **Special Educational Needs**

At Newton Longville Preschool, we are committed to ensuring that all children have the same opportunities and access to an enriched education. We believe that all children are unique, and we are aware that they learn at different rates and may have different needs. On occasion, some children may need further positive support to help achieve their full potential.

It is important to us that we support all children to be the best that they can be, and they are given the best opportunities to fulfill their aspirations. We will always focus on the children's achievements and we will work hard to ensure that they have achievable next steps to reach, which is agreed between the key worker and the parents/carers. We work closely with families to create good relationships as we believe this is essential to achieve the best outcomes for the children.

In our setting we will: -

- Create a positive and supportive learning environment.
- Understand the children and any additional needs they may have.
- Ensure that all children have access to high quality of learning.
- Provide small group and 1:1 interventions to help support the specific needs.

Ensuring the children are comfortable and self-regulated is importance to us. To aid us with this, we have a sensory area where we can sit with the children until they feel ready to rejoin the rest of the children.

## **Evaluation**

We will check that our curriculum is effective and meeting the needs of our children by;

- Reviewing the progress children are making and how they are accessing the learning environment.
- As a team, discuss our observations of the educational programs we offer.
- Individually with the Manager of the setting discuss the curriculum.

## **Interests and events at home**

Every child is unique, and at Preschool we love to celebrate everyone's differences. We like to find out about every child's interests and the things they like, in order to help each child learn in a way that suits them. This will help us get to know them better and plan activities that your child will enjoy. Therefore, we ask parents to complete the 'About us' section in Tapestry. We also encourage the children to bring in anything special to them or achievements that we can show or talk about in our group times.

