

# Cornhill Nursery ~ 'In the Moment Planning' Policy



## **Introduction**

Since September 2018, Cornhill Nursery have moved towards a more child led learning approach. We follow the interests of the children rather than plan what WE want them to learn. When children show high levels of involvement, that is when there is progress and development occurring. High level involvement occurs most often when children are able to pursue their own interests in an enabling environment supported by skilled staff. Planning in the moment helps to make this possible.

## **Implementation**

Planning in the Moment is all about seizing the moment of engagement and running with it to make sure the children progress. Based on what the children are already deeply involved in, this way of planning relies on skilled practitioners using quality interactions to draw out the children's knowledge and build on it there and then, in the moment. Our nursery staff use their expertise in observing, questioning and extending the learning. They note what the child is doing, what they need to do next and are skilled enough to know when to intervene and when to stand back and simply watch.

Each week staff select focus children, not focus activities. During play, the adult goes to the child rather than the child being called to come to the adult. We work this way because high-level involvement occurs in child initiated play.

## **An Enabling Environment**

We provide an enabling environment indoors and outdoors. The principal is that the resources are accessible to the children and they are varied, open-ended and high quality. This gives children the opportunity to select resources to support their chosen activity.

## **Role of the adult**

The adults are there to facilitate learning. They do this through observations and interactions. Our adults know the children very well and have a sound understanding of child development. This ensures that the adults enhance and extend the learning at the appropriate level. Staff are aware of when to intervene during play if necessary, but make a conscious effort to try and not interrupt the flow of play.

## **Observations**

We use the observation cycle on a moment by moment basis. The focus children are

given extra attention, but all the children are busy learning all the time, and this is not going unnoticed. Observations of groups of children are recorded on an A3 format.

All observations made of the children will be based on quality interactions between children or children and practitioners. They will include the teaching that has taken place and the outcome of the interaction. All practitioners are responsible for highlighting progress in observations. Emphasis is highly placed on using open ended questions such as 'I wonder...', when appropriate, as the child plays. We feel this approach to questioning is a lot less pressurising and allows children to open up more readily.

When it is your child's turn to be a 'Focus Child', you will be notified by staff. The following week, you will be given the chance to look at, or discuss, the learning that took place. Observation sheets will be kept in the child's Learning Journey booklet, which you will find in the green boxes situated outside the classrooms. Please note that these booklets stay in the Nursery unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Key Worker.

### **Record of planning**

The planning sheets are a record of activities that have occurred. It is particularly important that the adults' input (teaching) is recorded. The group and focus child planning sheets are gradually added to during the week. Sometimes these sheets will be completely filled with observations, other times they may only contain a few. We very much believe in quality over quantity with regard written observations, and we are also careful to consider the value of quality interactions with the children over paperwork, using our professional judgement.

All nursery staff can contribute to each record of learning. Where appropriate, photos are printed and added to the sheets. In addition, 'WOW' moments are recorded on ILDs when they occur. A3 record sheets will be shared with parents in the form of a big book which is displayed in the Nursery corridor.

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