

## **Early Years Foundation Stage**

### **Intent:**

**At Rushey Green Nursery we aim to support and encourage children to become confident, independent, and successful lifelong learners. We value and learn from the child and their families as they provide us with information of the child's early experiences.**

**We work in partnership with the parent/carer to arrange a positive settling in experience and strive to build close relationships through our key worker system. The children's personal, social, and emotional development is fundamental because each child is a unique learner and will develop at their own rate and have their own learning interests which we build upon.**

**As a diverse inclusive nursery, we celebrate, and value differences and we promote a sense of belonging and a love for learning with a 'can do' attitude. We support children's curiosity through the provision that we provide with our inside and outside areas. We provide opportunities to encourage children to explore, investigate, experiment and flourish.**

**We work in partnership with other professionals to support children's learning and development, this includes speech and language therapist, educational psychologist, early years advisor. We support children with the transition to primary school by encouraging visits from the school and giving the new setting information of the child's interests, skills and knowledge along with a summary report.**

**By providing children with many experiences and opportunities we are giving children the 'Cultural Capital' for future success, to fulfil their potential and to be ready for the next steps in their learning journey.**

### **Implement:**

**The daily routine ensures that practitioners can plan and implement a wide variety of activities using the seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, providing both adult led and child-initiated activities. The strong emphasis we place on the key person approach ensures that staff know the children well, which enables staff to provide experiences for the children to build upon their existing skills, knowledge and understanding. We set out the environment with open ended resources that encourage the children to help themselves and to be autonomous within their learning. Outdoor play gives**

the children the opportunity to explore the natural environment and helps children to make sense of the world. We have physical exploration areas along with a quiet reflection area, where we have wind chimes, herb garden, and bird feeders. We have a decked stage area where the children like to sing and dance and experiment with the music wall, created with a collection of household items (saucepans, whisks, racks, spoons). The children especially love the Mud kitchen area, which is resourced with a variety of tools to encourage the children to explore and create.

Communication and language are crucial to children's development and at Rushey Green Nursery we offer the children speaking and listening opportunities every day. We have daily story time session, circle time, role play activities, technology such as microphones, telephones. Nursery staff understand how to support children by helping them to build confidence and self-esteem, taking time to listen to children and to value their contributions, promoting social skills and encouraging friendships.

We support children and their families with English as an additional language so that they feel safe and secure to make good progress. The key practitioners learn some key words from the child's home language, and we use visual aids and symbols to help children to communicate. We celebrate children's cultures and take time to find out about traditions helping the child to have a sense of belonging. At Rushey Green we have a French and Spanish speaking practitioner who helps to interpret for some families.

We have a nursery Senco who supports key practitioners to identify children's needs as early as possible and put in strategies and support to help each child to reach their potential. Our Senco builds positive relationships with families and other professionals to ensure that each child's individual needs are met. Although we have reduced paperwork/tracking we will use records/paperwork as necessary if it benefits the individual child. We use the Development Matters (revised 2021) for development checkpoints to support the identification of areas of need.

#### Impact:

At Rushey Green Nursery we use both the 'Birth to 5 Matters' and the 'Development Matters' to help us to support each child's learning. Practitioners measure children's progress through direct observations, sharing information with parents/carers and with colleagues. Practitioners

take notice of what the interests are of the child, what progress has been made and what each child is working towards. Each child has their own folder, where they choose what they would like to put in it, they add some of their work along with photos showing snap shots of their experiences at nursery. Parents/carers really like the folders as the children take it home with them to remember their time at nursery.

We arrange a carefully planned settling in routine when a child first joins the nursery, the key person spends quality time with the parent/carer to talk about the child's early developments and interests, following this each term the key person meets with the parent/carers and shares a summary of the child's achievements and plans next steps. As part of the statutory framework and in partnership with parents/carers we undertake a two-year-old progress review so that we support the child's development in the three prime areas and ascertain if any additional support is required.

We extend children's interests as they emerge. We use the children's interests to enhance and build upon their existing knowledge. We developed a parent/carer focus sheet for parents to share their child's interests/experiences/progress, and together we plan to meet each child's individual needs.

We have developed 'ask me about' stickers to encourage children and their parents/carers to have conversations about their child's experience at nursery.

Regular staff meetings and room planning meetings allow us to discuss as a team the impact of our teaching and how we are meeting the children's all-round needs. Together we identify those children who may need additional support and how we extend and scaffold children's learning so they can develop at their own rate.