



Westfield Nursery School. Understanding the World Policy

Vision-

At Westfield Nursery School we aim to deliver against our vision. "Inspired beginnings, outstanding futures".

Children are born ready and eager to learn. They actively reach out to interact with other people and the world around them. Development is not an automatic process, however. It depends on each unique child having the opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments. (E.Y.F.S) Children learn best when they are in a secure environment, feel safe and happy. They learn more effectively if they have the opportunity to play, to explore through first hand experiences, to become active learners, to create and are able to think critically.

Children at Westfield Nursery School are empowered to learn about and make sense of the World in which they live. This is achieved by offering a broad and balanced curriculum where children can observe, explore, question and solve problems as part of their play. Children can build on their skills and knowledge of investigating, exploring, design and making and information communication technology, the environment and other people. This will form the basis for later work in science, design technology, information communication technology history, geography and religious studies

Guidelines for implementation

Practitioners should:

- Treat every child as unique, using observation of what the child is learning to plan for their individual development.
- Have a positive attitude to the learning outcomes for the Understanding the World Development in the E.Y.F.S document.
- Ensure they have positive relationships.
- Encourage children to be interested and question the world in which they live.
- Provide an enabling environment.
- Children should have access to the inside and outside areas and be able to explore their environment.
- Resources should be accessible for all children.
- Practitioners should have a good knowledge of I.C.T.

Guidelines for implementation - People and Communities

- Provide opportunities for children to explore.
- Be positive about the differences and recognise all children have a valuable contribution to make.
- Celebrate and value differing cultures, religious beliefs and celebrations.
- Ensure that children learning English as an additional language have opportunities to express themselves in their home language some of the time.
- Encourage children to talk about their own home and community life and to find out about other children's experiences.
- Encourage children to develop positive relationship with community members.

Guidelines for implementation- The World

- Plan arrangement of equipment and materials in a variety of ways to maintain interest and provide challenges.
- Talk with children about their responses to sights, sounds and smells in the environment.
- Encourage children to explore puddles, trees and surfaces such as grass, concrete or pebbles.
- Tell stories about places and journeys.
- Provide resources and books about times past.
- Allow children to talk about and reflect on past experiences and significant events in their lives.
- Talk about the weather.
- Examine change over time.
- Arrange walks and visits in the community, e.g. walks to the shops.

Guidelines for implementation -Technology

- Support children in exploring the control technology of toys e.g. electronic toys.
- Talk about ICT apparatus, what it does, what they can do with it and how to use it safely.
- Encourage children to think about how things work.

Equal Opportunities

All practitioners must have high expectations of what the children can achieve regardless of gender, ability, race or cultural/social backgrounds. Any observed inequality such as an activity only being accessed by a particular group needs to be discussed and addressed. It is important to consider the cognitive and English language abilities of the children for whom English is an additional language and for children with special needs.

Liaison with parents/ carers

Families are encouraged to share their experiences of the World, for example through international day. We want to celebrate the world around us and the children's experience of it. Parents and carers can learn more on our UTW stay and play day.

Safety

Staff will ensure all resources that are put out are safe and useable for children, staff will also ensure that the outside area is checked during the morning health and safety check.

Assessment and Evaluation

It is the Leaders responsibility to monitor, evaluate and implement the necessary changes to ensure effective provision of UTW development opportunities This is done through regular scrutiny of planning, assessment, observations and feedback from other members of staff in the nursery.

Conclusion

Implementation of this policy will ensure the children have the best start in understanding the world in which they live.

Policy reviewed January 2019

To be reviewed January 2020.