

At Willowdene Nursery we encourage all children to be active, autonomous learners; we do this by providing personalised learning, development and care through -

Treating each child as a unique individual

- Supporting all areas of their **development**
- Valuing and respecting the diversity of individuals and communities through **inclusive practice**
- **Keeping them safe** and protected
- Supporting their **health and well-being**

Positive Relationships

- **Respecting each other**
- Forming strong **partnerships with parents**
- Providing warm, trusting relationships that **support learning**
- A **key person** system which develops secure attachments and allows for every child to feel loved and supported

Enabling Environments

- Individualised **observation, assessment and planning**
- Providing a range of materials which **support every child's** unique learning journey
- A rich and varied **learning environment** indoor and outdoors which supports children's learning and development
- Working in the **wider context** by working in partnership with other settings, other professionals and the community in the wider context

Learning and Development

- Valuing all **play and exploration**, which will reflect the interests and preoccupations of each child
- Providing many opportunities for **active learning**, which involve other people, objects, ideas and events that engage and involve children for sustained periods
- Supporting children's **creativity and critical thinking**
- Supporting all six **areas of learning and development**

At Willowdene Nursery we use the Early Years Foundation Stage as a planning framework. The Nursery offers a broad curriculum using the 6 areas of learning and development: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication, Language and Literacy, Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Physical Development and Creative Development. Some examples of these are;

Personal Social & Emotional Development

The children will be learning to

- Become self confident
- Take an interest in things
- Know what their needs are
- Dress and undress independently
- Become independent
- Tell the difference between right and wrong

Communication, Language & Literacy

The children will be learning to

- Talk confidently and clearly
- Enjoy listening to stories, songs and rhymes
- Hear and say sounds
- Learn to use a pencil effectively
- Read and write familiar words

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

The children will be learning to

- Develop and understanding of maths through stories, songs, games and imaginative play
- Become comfortable with numbers and with ideas such as 'heavier than' or 'bigger'
- Be aware of shapes and space

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

The children will

- Explore and find out about the world around them
- Build with different materials, know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for
- Find out about past events in their lives and their families' lives
- Find out about different cultures and beliefs

Creative Development

The children will explore

- Colours and shapes
- Making Things
- Role Play
- Making Music

Physical Development

The children will be learning to

- Move confidently
- Control their Body
- Handle Equipment.

At Willowdene Nursery we:

- Provide a stimulating environment with easily accessible resources both indoors and outdoors
- Allow children time to become engrossed in activities, complete them and return to them later if they wish
- Offer children a range of well planned play opportunities which offer continuity and progression, e.g. physical play, creative play, imaginative play, social play, play with natural materials;
- Provide play contexts which are well planned and resourced to foster all aspects of children's development (physical, emotional, social and intellectual)
- Provide situations which will enable children to appreciate the multicultural society in which they live;
- Provide appropriate, good quality materials and resources that reflect careful planning and enable children to interact at their own level of development, allowing for progression by exciting children's interests and curiosity.

At Willowdene Nursery the Staff:

- Develop close relationships with children in their key person groups.
- Involve parents and encourage them to contribute to and support their child's learning.
- Understand the importance of play and enjoy playing alongside the children indoors and outdoors.
- Encourage children to explore everyday situations in their play
- Respect and value children's play and learning and are able to intervene sensitively in it using language to support and extend children's thinking:
- Help children to become independent learners and to develop their creativity and imagination
- Have time to observe children at play and monitor their development in all areas (including outdoors) in order to inform future planning of play provision and experiences
- Respond to observation and assessment of the children's developmental needs and interests
- Enable children to initiate their own learning as well as take part in adult-initiated experiences;
- Positively encourage all children to have equal access to all play experiences indoors and outdoors
- Challenge stereotypical ideas about play