**Education Policy**

**It is the policy of Sunshine Day Nursery, to provide all children attending the facility with an education that is rich and varied, challenging and inspiring, thus enabling each child to reach his/her full potential whether they are 5 months or 5 years old or if they attend for one session or for a full week.**

**The first five years of a child’s life are a particularly receptive time for learning.**

We aim to:-

* Build a firm foundation for confidence and success in the years ahead for each child attending ‘The Sunshine Day Nursery ’.
* Provide experiences which encourage development in all areas of learning. Learning takes place everywhere and throughout all activities.
* Provide an anti-discriminatory atmosphere enabling all children to flourish at their own pace without fear of comparison and judgment.
* Work in partnership with parents and other professionals to provide an enjoyable, secure and stimulating environment.
* Sunshine Day Nursery are accredited by the DfEE and accept government nursery funding money for eligible two, three and four year olds.
* Desirable outcomes are goals for children’s learning on entering compulsory education set by the DfEE.
* Subsequently, all children should be able to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage which enables them to make maximum progress to their education.
* The children to have an involvement in decision within the nursery.
* For the children to ‘have a voice’ – in the raindrop and rainbow room the children’s views are recorded in the circle time book.
* The older children help make the nursery rules for their room.

**It is very important for us to help all children attending The Sunshine Day Nursery, to establish positive, confident attitudes to learning and to encourage each child to have a good image of him/herself. As a learner, this is the first step in a long continuous process.**

**Children aged 0-5 are under a Framework called Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which is designed for children aged 0-5. This Framework is divided in to seven areas, which are stated below. There are 3 Prime areas these being Personal, social and emotional development, physical development and Communication and Language. The other areas are called Specific areas of development; these are Literacy, Mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. Sunshine Day Nursery uses the development framework 2021 to educate our children.**

**Personal, social and emotional**

Children will start to learn personal, social and emotional skills from babies and continue to develop these. As babies they will begin to respond to people when they are spoken to, enjoy cuddles and the company of others. Babies will develop eye contact and start to gurgle and laugh and they will be comforted by touch such as rocking. As they become older they will begin to build relationships playing alongside others. They will become confident in exploring new toys and they will begin to understand yes and no. children will start to form friendships when they have developed personal, social and emotional skills and will become interested in others play, they will begin to express their preferences and respond to boundaries. As they get older they will enjoy playing in groups, building on play ideas and they will enjoy selecting their own choice of activities, they will also begin to be able to express their own feelings. Before leaving nursery to go to school we hope children will be able to take steps to resolve conflicts, speak about their own abilities and interests and be able to adapt their behaviour in different situations.

**Communication and Language**

From babies, they will learn listening and attention skills by turning towards familiar sounds and voices, they will continue to develop this moving their body to music, enjoying singing songs and listening to stories, maintaining good attention. Children learn understanding skills, they will begin by stopping and looking when they hear their name, they will begin to understand simple words such as milk, cup, car etc. As they develop their understanding, they will begin to understand short sentences and then more complex sentences. They will begin to understand instructions and start to understand why and how questions. From babies they will begin to develop their speaking skills by crying, gurgling and babbling. They will then use sounds in play and begin to say one to two words. As they develop their speaking they will begin to use more complex sentences. They will begin to ask questions and use their vocabulary to introduce storylines into their play.

**Physical Development**

From babies, they will begin to learn moving and handling skills, they will begin to turn their head, roll from side to side or onto their belly. They will begin to sit unsupported, start to crawl and pull themselves to standing. They will then begin to walk and then run, climbing slides and kicking footballs. They will begin to develop pencil control, and form letters. They will begin to develop health and self-care skills from babies by expressing discomfort hunger or thirst then they will begin to hold their own bottle or cup and to grasp finger foods. As they get older they will begin to develop their own likes and dislikes in foods. Children will begin to be able to feed themselves and drink from an open top cup. As they grow older and become more independent they will be able to dress themselves and wash and dry their hand themselves.

**Literacy**

Children and babies will enjoy looking at picture books and exploring texture books, as they get older they will start to be interested in books and rhymes and may have their favourites. They will learn to handle books carefully, turn pages one by one and hold the book the correct way up. Children will also start talking about the stories and suggesting endings of stories. Children will begin to distinguish between the different marks they make, they will sometimes give meanings to their drawing. As children develop mark making skills they will begin to write their name as they get older.

**Mathematics**

Staff will sing number songs to babies and children. As children get older they will begin to say number names randomly and then recite them in sequence. They will begin to use number language such as big small, more and a lot and begin to recognise numbers. Children will begin to recognise big and small objects they will start to enjoy attempting to fit puzzle pieces into board. they will begin to use language of size and show an interest in shapes. As children get ready for school we will begin to order objects but length size.

**Understanding the world**

Children will learn about people and the community by being curious about people and enjoying looking at photos of themselves and their family. Children will begin to learn they have similarities and differences they will start to show interests in the lives of people who are familiar to them. Children will start to talk about significant events in their lives and show an interest in the different occupations and ways of lives. Babies and children will develop an understanding of the world, babies will begin to look around the room with interest and smile with pleasure at recognisable play things. Children will look for toys that have been hidden, they will start to match and fit together toys that go together such as putting the lid on the teapot. Children will enjoy playing with small world toys, start to observe plants, animals and nature and make comments and ask questions. Children and babies will develop technology skills they will show an interest in toys with buttons and flaps. Children will begin to be able to operate mechanical toys and ICT toys and show an interest in technology toys. As they develop skills they will begin to be able to complete simple programs on the computer or tablet.

**Expressive arts and design**

Babies will begin to explore and experiment through sensory activities. They will begin to move to music and join in singing songs. They will use musical instruments to create sounds. Children use various construction materials and begin to realise tools are used for a purpose. Children will explore what happens when they mix colours. Children will begin to be imaginative and begin to make believe and build stories around toys. Children will begin to introduce a storyline in their play.

**Managing the curriculum and the framework**

Teamwork is the essence of quality provision in all education and no where will it be better demonstrated than at The Sunshine Day Nursery.

Young children have an enormous capacity for intellectual growth, which needs to be nourished, challenged and provided for across all areas of experience.

We do Long term planning which is where we set topics throughout the year, this is then implemented into our weekly planning. Our weekly planning has 1 adult led activity morning and 1 adult led activity in the afternoon and it covers all 7 areas on each day over 4 weeks. At the bottom of each days planning we also have a child led activity box which we add any activities chosen by the children throughout the day.

**Our commitment**

We will lay the foundations of values showing a positive role model in order to foster self - respect and respect for others

We will look to provide a quality education, which will make a difference to their learning.

We will listen and talk to the children at the centre of all activities in order to learn communication skills.

The early year’s curriculum and the framework will progress at a pace that is stimulating, challenging and will show that learning is fun.

We also work alongside our parents to ensure we are helping the child to reach their full potential.

We follow the Early years foundation stage Development matters 2021.

**Home Learning**

In each age group the keyworker has set next steps for their key children that they focus on over a term. We will set home learning for each child, this will be an activity that is catered for each child’s need so that their learning can be extended to their home environment. The keyworker will provide this home learning through Tapestry.

**Tapestry**

At Sunshine Day Nursery we use an educational software called *Tapestry,* every child at Sunshine will have their own individual learning journal. By logging on with a secure username and password you are able to access your child’s information. Parents and carers are only able to view their own child’s journal and all information is stored on a highly secure server.

Tapestry Online Learning Journals allow you to view your child’s observations and photographs from their time at Sunshine. We will also reference your child’s learning to the Early Years Foundation Stage. This will keep you informed of all what your child is learning at nursery. Tapestry allows you, as your child’s primary educator, to add observations and photographs of your own as well as to share your comments. We love to hear about what your child is learning at home.

**English as an additional language**

At sunshine we treat every family as an individual family and find out all the information we need to know about the family and the child. If we have children who have English as an additional language when the child first start at Sunshine we will meet with the parents/carers to gain a better understanding of how we can cater for their child. We will ask the parent to support us in learning some of the child’s home language so we can support the child as much as possible. All next steps that are set are individual for that particular child and we will focus all children’s next steps on their individual learning. Staff have the knowledge to differentiate activities on the weekly planning for each individual child.

**The Early Years Foundation stage**

The Early Years Foundation stage development matters 2021 shows that the children develop their understanding by playing, talking, observing, planning, questioning, experimenting, testing, repeating, reflecting and responding to adults and to each other.

In order to achieve this we follow the seven areas of development as detailed above.

***We are the new generation in nursery education***

***and we are setting the standards***