

**Downham Market Children’s Centre**

**Snape Lane**

**Paradise Road**

**Downham Market**

**Norfolk PE38 9JE**

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The pre-school years are a very important part of a child's development. Through play and exploration, a child lays the foundation for all future learning. All the activities offered at Clackclose Pre-School will be open to all children regardless of age, gender, race, ability, or Special Educational Need. It is hoped that all children will gain something at their own level from their time at Pre-School.

Clackclose Pre-School aim to provide quality learning experiences for all children. Learning which is structured, balanced, relevant to the children and related to the real world.

Children's progress will be monitored and assessed through frequent observations. These will be recorded and used to identify needs and to inform future planning. The records are to be shared with parents through Tapestry, who are welcome to contribute at any time.

We will set up and maintain a pleasant atmosphere where everyone, whether adult or child, is treated with the same care, respect and concern. We will encourage the children to help us and each other. We will also encourage them to do things for them-selves. We will provide opportunities for group and individual work. We will provide children with the opportunity to express them-selves, although inappropriate behaviour will be challenged in accordance with the Pre-School policy.

To provide a curriculum which takes account of and responds to the children's developmental needs and allows them to make progress related to their differing abilities. "What the child can do" will always be our starting point.

To ensure that the children have positive experiences of success at their own levels now, in order to give them confidence and motivation for learning in the future.

To provide a curriculum which promotes the Early Learning Goals identified in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the interests of the children.

To create a partnership with parents to support and enhance the development of the children.

To support enhance and value the contribution parents make towards their child's learning.

Skills of co-operation turn taking and team building will be developed through the curriculum with Practitioner support as necessary.

To promote and develop self-esteem and self-responsibility alongside interest, understanding and value for the child's own experiences and those of other people (locally, nationally and globally). To provide the children with opportunities to observe, interact and learn about each other’s lives through a balanced programme of activities.

To develop, extend and enrich the skills of communication which the child has, in order to enable them to function effectively as a member of society. The Pre-school as a whole is organised to promote and enhance development in language and to promote positive images and role models for children.

To promote enthusiasm enjoyment and confidence in developing and using physical skills. Provision will be made for the children to manipulate objects to develop both fine and gross motor control. They will be encouraged to develop an awareness of Health and Safety issues and develop self-independence skills.

The Pre-school will provide a stimulating environment in which literacy skills (listening, reading and writing) can be nurtured and developed through visual, auditory and tactile experiences.

To foster enthusiasm, confidence and the development of knowledge in exploring, using and applying a broad range of mathematical concepts. To provide all children with broad and varied experiences in which mathematical language, skills and concepts can be created, supported and nurtured.

To enable the children to make observations, comparisons, predictions and representations concerning the world around them. The Pre-school will provide the children with a range of activities and opportunities which embrace the natural and manmade world.

To enable the children to express their ideas and feelings and to promote the development of the imagination. The children will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of materials and media which will enable them to begin to appreciate and understand the many aspects of creativity. The children will have access to and the opportunity to handle equipment covering a variety of techniques. Practitioners will be aware that it is the process and not the end product which aids creative development.

**Review Date: September 2025**