English as Additional Language Policy (EAL)

Here at Jumping Jo’s Day nursery, we believe that every child and family has the right to feel safe, secure and happy in our learning environment. This includes supporting anyone who has EAL to feel welcome in our setting.

To do this we are happy to provide a range of resources such as policies, home learning and other documents in a range of languages to support families in having a better understanding of the setting.

We know that language is an essential part of our identity and individuality. We encourage our children to use their home language as well as English within the setting. Practitioners will always support every child to learn English.

Every child who enters the setting with EAL is given an individual action plan that their key worker uses to support their on-going learning and development within the setting. We understand that it can be difficult for a child who doesn’t understand or speak English to develop academically at the same rate as children with English as their first language, so we make sure that there is as much support in place as possible to maintain development levels. Children with EAL do not necessarily have SEN although in some cases this could be true, and so that child will have the same access to SEN provision and will be further supported where needed.

When a parent fills out an entry form, we ask what background, ethnicity and language the child has because this helps our staff to support the family.

To support learning, we understand that some children with EAL may stay in the ‘silent period’ for longer, because their brains are trying to figure the new sounds and words out. We will not pressure the children to speak, but we will give them the tools and the time to develop the new language.

We do encourage parents to communicate with us in English but we understand that in some instances it may be too difficult, so we use other methods such as an online translation tool, printing in their home language or speaking with a family member that can translate for us.

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