

Key person and Learning journey Parent policy

“Each child must be assigned a key person. Their role is to help ensure that every child’s care is tailored to meet their individual needs (in accordance with paragraph 1.16), to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents”. (p27 EYFS Sept 21)

“The key person must help ensure that every child’s learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. The key person must seek to engage and support parents and/or carers in guiding their child’s development at home. They should also help families engage with more specialist support if appropriate.” (p16 EYFS Sept 21)

We believe the key person role is vital in helping children learn life long skills and provide each child with a tailor-made learning experience. It supports the child’s holistic development and provides positive attachments and emotional support to both the child and their parent’s/careers.

“The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence,” (DR. Maria Montessori).

At Butterflies Montessori Nursery we follow the Montessori approach. We support each unique child as they learn by observing and preparing the environment to meet their individual needs. We follow the Montessori three hour work cycle where children have freedom of movement and choice over the activities they play with. We also respect their freedom of non-interruption, which enables children to repeat their activities at their own pace and supports their concentration, ***“The first essential for the child’s development is concentration. It lays the whole basis for his character and social behaviour.”***

Staff are aware of each of their key child’s stages of development and how they learn using the ‘Characteristics of Effective learning’, (Development Matters 2021). This knowledge enables the key person to support and teach the children throughout their play. As children play they are naturally using their hands in unison with their minds, which in turn creates deep concentration and calmness as they develop to their full potential. ***“What the hand does, the mind remembers,”The absorbent mind of the child orients itself in the environment; so it is necessary to prepare the environment with much care.” (DR. Maria Montessori).***

Learning Journey

Your child's Learning Journey celebrates their experiences made during their time at Butterflies. It will tell a story about your child, their learning, their friends, the experiences they enjoy and the activities they complete. Your child's key worker will notice each child at play, to help understand and support their individual wellbeing and development.

Each Key worker will work together with parents/carers to build the Learning Journey as a record of each child's early years. Parents and carers may take the Learning Journey home and share in their child's learning. Although the Learning Journeys will be sent home at the end of the year, there will be opportunities for parents/carers to look through and contribute to them by adding family photo's or other things of significance. It may also be borrowed to share with other settings or important people- please ask your child's key worker to take the book home.

The Learning Journey will include the following:

Photographs - These capture moments and sequences of your child's experiences, their interests and explorations. You can add some of your own from home. Sometimes, we will write down exactly what your child says about the photographs, so we know your child's point of view. This is also an accurate record of language development. Pictures of important people and things from home will help your child to feel secure when making the transition between home and their early years setting. Please feel free to add any photos to the Learning Journey. You could also write down the names of family members or friends pictured in the photos and we will then be able to talk with your child about things that are important to them.

Your Child's Creations - These could be photos of models your child has built, photos of their role-play activities, marks they have made or artwork they have created. Sometimes we will add some additional notes to explain what your child did or said.

Observations - As your child completes tasks and activities, staff will observe what your child says and does. We will sometimes make notes of our observations to record information about significant moments in your child's learning and development. We record important milestones in your child's learning and use these to think about what and how your child is learning, their development and how best to support them further.

This policy was reviewed and revised; April 2023