

Curriculum policy

At Twinkle Toes we offer a continuous provision, ensuring a rich and varied curriculum is delivered daily to meet the needs of our children. Practitioners are trained to create a stimulating environment, accessible to all, in which it is fun to learn and in which every child can reach their full potential.

The curriculum offered at Twinkle Toes Day Nursery encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves and about people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking. All staff will actively encourage children to learn through playing and exploring, following their own interests. Staff will ensure the curriculum is suitable for children from birth to five years. To ensure inclusion in the provision, all planning will be conducted taking into consideration the children's interests, catering for different learning styles.

Daily and termly observations and assessments will enable key workers to inform their planning to meet the needs of each individual child. Adult led activities and child-initiated activities will be balanced out equally. Staff will provide a wide variety of practical activities and experiences daily, both inside and outside. We will actively value diversity within our setting and use resources, which promotes positive images of all the different groups of adults and children living within our society. We will offer outings and invite visitors to the setting to extend children's learning opportunities.

The nursery manager will employ well-qualified, enthusiastic staff who understand how children learn and know how to promote young children's development across all areas of the foundation phase.

Planning:

For daily planning staff have taken into consideration the requirements from the EYFS. Ensuring that daily there is a rich variety of activities on offer, which the children can freely choose. We have also embedded opportunities to work with external sports agencies as well as different languages.

Our daily planning for all groups includes:

- Imaginative / Role Play
- Mark Making
- Mathematics
- Construction
- Sand
- Water
- Discovery / small world / Exploration area
- Technology
- Malleable Materials
- Story-time / Circle time / Group time
- Music
- Creative
- Gross / Physical
- Yoga
- Languages

Free flow:

The free flow approach used at Twinkle Toes Day Nursery policy works on the recognition that children, just like adults, learn best when they can explore their interests fully and follow their own agendas through play for any given length of time. A free-flow environment often works well in Early Years settings as it allows children to move between the indoor and outdoor as they wish and this freedom offers many learning and development opportunities, which include:

- Greater independence – allows children to set their own rules.
- Progress at their own pace – Some children learn better when outside.
- Developing decision making skills – choosing what activity they want to do, gives children practice in choosing and dealing with the consequences of their choice.
- Freedom – Access to the outdoors gives children space to run around and expel energy and boosts mental and physical well-being and confidence.

- Develop an understanding of their environment and surroundings – learning the difference between inside and outside and the natural and man-made environments.

Staffing policy

We provide a staffing ratio in line with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure that children have sufficient individual attention and to guarantee care and education of a high quality. Our staff is appropriately qualified, and we carry out checks for enhanced criminal records and barred list checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service in accordance with statutory requirements.

Staff Organisation

The staffing arrangements at Twinkle Toes nursery are organised to ensure that they always meet the needs of the children. Staff will be placed according to their strengths and to provide the best possible care for the children. Parents will be notified when staff changes (including room changes) occur. Children are always supervised. In the absence of Sumaya Ahmed (nursery manager), Denise Fossati is the named deputies who will take charge of the nursery.

Staff: Child Ratios

To meet this aim, we use the following ratios of adult to children:

Tiny Turtles (Under 2's) -1 adult: 3 children

Busy Bees (toddlers 2-3)- 1 adult: 5 children

Curious Cats (preschool 3+)- 1 adult: 8 children

Staffing:

- We only include those aged 16 years or older within our ratios. Where they are competent and responsible, we may include students on long-term placements and regular volunteers.
- Minimum of two staff/adults are on duty at any one time; one of who is either our manager or deputy.
- Our manager deploys our staff, students, and volunteers to give adequate supervision of indoor and outdoor areas, ensuring that children are usually within sight and hearing of staff, and always within sight or always hearing of staff.
- Our staff, students and volunteers inform their colleagues if they must leave their area and tell colleagues where they are going.
- Our staff, students and volunteers always focus their attention on children and do not spend time in social conversation with colleagues while they are working with children.
- We assign each child a key person to help the child become familiar with the setting from the outset and to ensure that each child has a named member of staff with whom to form a relationship. The key person plans with parents for the child's well-being and development in the setting. The key person meets regularly with the family for discussion and consultation on their child's progress and offers support in guiding their development at home.
- We hold regular staff meetings to undertake curriculum planning and to discuss children's progress, their achievements and any difficulties that may arise from time to time.

Policy reviewed by: Sumaya Ahmed (Manager)

Date: January 2024

Next review: January 2025