



www.penhillplaygroup.org.uk

Curriculum Planning Policy

Our group aims to provide a safe, secure, happy and stimulating environment for pre-school children, where they will be helped and encouraged to develop and learn through a wide range of appropriate play and learning activities, led or supported by caring, professional, trained adults.

The group is registered by OFSTED on the Early Years Register, with the DfE (Department for Education) for Free Entitlement (Early Years Provision) for eligible two and three year old children and with the West Sussex Early Childhood Service, which is part of Integrated and Earliest Help (IPEH).

Curriculum

The curriculum guidelines we work within are those set out by the DfE in the Early Years Foundation Stage, which covers three prime areas of development and four specific areas, which we incorporate into our planning. These areas of learning and development can be broken down into Early Learning Goals, which children are generally expected to reach at the end of their Reception year at school. Many children will be well on the way to achieving these outcomes when they leave the Playgroup. We work closely with our local schools to help the transition to school and to enable the school to build on what the children have achieved and learnt at Playgroup.

The three prime areas of Learning and Development, incorporated into our planning are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be supported and encouraged by staff in:

- Making relationships
- Self confidence and self-awareness
- Managing feelings and behaviour

Communication and Language

Children will be helped to develop skills in:

- Listening and attention
- Understanding
- Speaking

Physical Development

Through a high level of adult support and a range of equipment and opportunities, both indoors and outdoors, children will be enabled to develop their skills in:

- Moving and handling
- Health and self-care

The four specific areas, which are about applying the understanding and skills developed in the three prime areas, are:

Literacy

Children will be helped to develop skills in:

- Reading (recognising own name, familiar signs and symbols as well as letters and words)
- Writing (giving meaning to mark making as well as beginning to form letters)

Mathematics

Through adult supported practical experiences, children will be helped to develop skills in:

- Number
- Shape, space and measure

Understanding of the world

Children will be helped to develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- People and communities
- The world
- Technology

Expressive Arts and Design

Children are encouraged to use a wide range of resources to express their own ideas and feelings in two and three dimensions, to include:

- Exploring and using media and materials
- Being imaginative

A child develops their skills, knowledge and abilities in each of these seven areas through the **characteristics of effective learning:**

- **playing and exploring** - which is about finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to have a go
- **active learning** – which is about being involved and concentrating, keeping trying, enjoying achieving what they set out to do
- **creative and critical thinking** – which is about having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things

All children develop at different rates, but you can support your child with these skills at home. Please ask if you would like further information. A useful document to look at is "What to Expect When", which can be found online at www.foundationyears.org.uk
Or please ask if you would like to borrow our copy.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Playgroup held on

Signed on behalf of the Playgroup

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