



www.penhillplaygroup.org.uk

## Curriculum Planning Policy

At Penhill Playgroup, we want the children in our care to be happy, inquisitive, engaged and confident children, able to communicate their wants, needs and ideas; to become independent and start to take responsibility for themselves. 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 staff.

We get to know each child individually in order to identify and understand their own unique strengths, interests and abilities, to incorporate into our planning. We provide fun, practical experiences and challenging opportunities for all children to take part, join in and explore, enabling them to begin to understand and expand their world and broaden their social experiences.

Given the increase in the number of speech, language and communication difficulties we are seeing in children and the potential impact the use of face coverings may have had on children's ability to develop these skills recently, we aim to provide a communication rich environment, taking opportunities to introduce new vocabulary throughout the setting and to consolidate and develop the children's existing skills.

### Curriculum

The curriculum guidelines we work within are those set out by the DfE in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which covers three prime areas of learning and 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 goals when they leave Playgroup and we work closely with our local schools to enable them to build on both the children's needs and interests and what the children have already achieved and learned at Playgroup.

*The three prime areas of Learning and Development are:*

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be supported and encouraged by staff to develop skills in **self regulation**, **managing self** and **building relationships**. These include skills such as starting to become aware of feelings and emotions, both in themselves and others; learning to make friends, take turns and share; developing independence in personal care, including toileting, getting dressed and staying safe.

#### Communication and Language

Children will be helped to develop skills in **listening, attention and understanding** and **speaking** through our daily circle and carpet times, the regular introduction of new vocabulary, bucket time, through sharing stories, poems and rhymes, listening to each other and by sharing ideas, thoughts, opinions and experiences.

## **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 confidence and competence in their **gross** and **fine motor skills**, including strength, balance, co-ordination, spatial awareness and control in using tools and equipment.

*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 **comprehension**, such as understanding stories we have read together, **word reading**, recognising their own name, familiar signs and symbols as well as letters and words and **writing** where children begin to understand that we give meaning to mark making as well as later on, beginning to form letters.

## **Mathematics**

Through adult supported practical experiences, which aim to foster a positive attitude and interest in mathematics. Children will be helped to develop a strong grounding in **number** and **numerical patterns**; develop spatial reasoning skills; use and understand mathematical language; look for patterns and relationships; spot connections; have a go and not be afraid to make mistakes.

## **Understanding of the world**

Children will be helped to develop a knowledge and understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. They will be guided to make sense of their physical world and their community, through themes related to **past and present**, **people**, **culture and communities** and **the natural world**.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children are encouraged to use a wide range of resources to express their own ideas and feelings and to support their imagination and creativity, through **creating with materials** and **being imaginative and expressive**. This includes activities such as dressing up, role play, junk modelling, painting, music, singing and dancing.

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 investigating and experiencing, 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 between ideas and choosing ways to do things

All children develop at different rates, but by planning a wide range of fun, stimulating and challenging activities, based on the children's needs and interests, we aim to enable all children to develop their skills in all areas of the curriculum, during their time at Playgroup.

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](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk) Or please ask if you would like to borrow our copy.

This Policy will be reviewed at least annually.