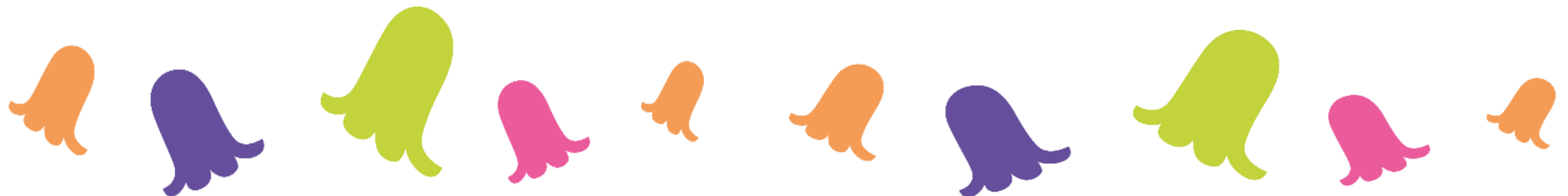




How we teach at Bluebell Children's Nurseries



Our curriculum and pedagogy

We created our own curriculum based on what we felt was crucial and what skills we wanted the children to have by the time they left us.

WHAT we teach - curriculum



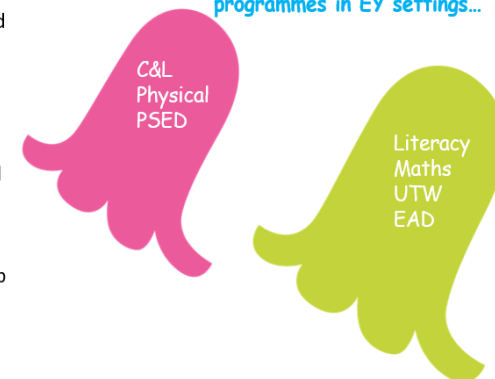
You will see this document around each of our nurseries and in every room. Our team chose which characteristics meant the most to them, to create our unique curriculum. The EYFS seven areas of learning underpin all these characteristics.

Our curriculum and the EYFS (Statutory framework)

Overarching principles (EYFS 2021)
These 4 principles shape our practice

- every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
- children learn and develop well in **enabling environments with teaching and support from adults**, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

7 areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in EY settings...



Each room has also created an 'Intent' – what they hope the children will be able to do and know before they move to the next stage in their learning. When we observe our children, we are checking to ensure they are making good progress and will therefore thrive in their next stage of learning.

HOW we teach – Pedagogy



- **Child led:** The children are at the centre of everything we do! We encourage children to choose where and what they want to play with. We ask parents for information on what their child can do, what they like and what they are interested in at home. We observe children to identify what they can do, what they know and what they need to learn NEXT. We provide open ended resources to encourage and allow children to make their own choices, explore and ignite their imaginations. We have photos of the children around the nursery to help them feel part of their environment. This also encourages them to talk about past learning experiences and give them ideas of what they'd like to do next. Knowing our children well, through observations and partnerships with parents, helps us to create environments that excite and stimulate the children because research tells us that children's brains need to be 'lit up' for them to learn and develop!
- **Adult led:** We offer a balance of 'child led' and 'adult led' learning experiences. The activities we plan and the environments we create, reflect each individual child's interests.
- **Encourage independence:** All children over the age of 1 year, have opportunities to cut and prepare their own foods for snacks and serve themselves at meal times. All children are encouraged to choose whether they would like to play inside or out. Even our youngest children are encouraged to make this choice by using our visual cards.
- **Role model:** We understand that our teachers are the best resource in a nursery. Our Nursery Teachers role model sharing, thinking out loud, problem solving and being kind.
- **Play based learning:** Research tells us that children learn best when they are motivated and engaged. Therefore, young children learn best through PLAY. This is because play is FUN! We do not sit children at tables to count or write. Instead, we PLAY and teach them to love mathematics whilst deeply engaged in a game of 'Ice cream shops', for example, using the till, creating a menu, working as a team and communicating with one another. Our environments are set up based on the children's interests and stages of development.
- **Outdoor learning:** Spending time outside is hugely important to us at Bluebell. Our outside spaces are extensions of our indoor learning environments with opportunities to dig, climb, run freely, grow food and sit and read. We do not limit time spent outdoors. Bluebell Barn has direct access to the garden from each room whilst the Hill and the Wood encourage children to choose where they'd like to play by using visual cards.

Although our curriculum is the same across all 3 nurseries, how we deliver it will differ to meet the needs of the children who attend each nursery.

How we teach during daily routines

Daily routines happen multiple times a day, day in, day out, so they are the perfect time to extend children's learning! They are not to be rushed or taken for granted. Here's how we make the most of those times...

Group time

Respect
Positive interactions
Imagination
British Values
Making relationships
Awe and Wonder
Communities
Exploration
The World
Recall
Technology

- Listening to one another
- Sharing photos from home on tablets
- Teacher singing, reading stories, using puppets
- Discussing topics/interests
- Discussing what we've learnt that day



Meal times

Independence
Self esteem
Risk taking
Confident Communicator
Making choices
Good manners
The world
Motivation
Sharing
British Values

- Cutting own food
- Choice of two fruits
- Pouring own drinks
- Teacher initiating conversation
- Teacher role modelling by sitting at the table
- Talking about shape, smell, size of foods
- Talking about where the foods come from and how they help our bodies grow
- Passing each other plates/cutlery/food

Nappy/toileting times

Fun
Excitement
Investigation
Physical health
Confident communicator
Active listening
Confidence
Independence
Awe and Wonder

- Mirrors
- Music playing
- Crazy soap
- Teacher singing
- Teacher engaging in conversation
- Bubbles

Getting involved in your child's learning

We value your input in your child's learning and urge you to share with us, what you've been up to at home, how you have spent your weekends and what your child is loving when at home. This information helps us to create an environment that ignites their imagination and makes them feel happy and safe.

We also love to see you! So please do come in and spend time with us, read a story, lead an activity, or simply join us for snack time. Our 'Stay and Play' sessions are fantastic opportunities for you to come in and see what we do. We understand that you may be busy or working when your child attends nursery therefore, our stay and play sessions are flexible. You can come in with your child on a day that your child wouldn't normally attend.

We send home activity bags and share recipes and activity ideas on our social media pages.

We share your child's learning journey on the secure app, 'Famly'. You can send photos and message us on here too, to keep us up to date. We will also share your child's 'next steps' on here, so that you will know what we are working on with your child to help them make progress in their learning and development.

We host Parents Evenings every year as well as social events such as our Summer Fun day and Christmas Craft morning. These are opportunities for you to come into our nurseries and get to know our wonderful teams!

If you would like further information about our curriculum and how we teach your children, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your Nursery Manager.

