



## Play and Nursery Routines

The main emphasis of the nursery is on the variety and opportunities for play. It is well established that children learn more and at a greater speed in their pre-school years than at any other time in their lives and that they do this mostly through play. Play is essential to every child and vital to human development. To this end, the nursery offers four different areas which are available to all children, each one providing different types of play opportunities. We consider it very important that we offer a wide range of play activities for children to enjoy first hand learning experiences and to develop socially, emotionally and physically. We work closely to the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' curriculum guidance providing a wide range of learning experiences through play.

### THE BIG ROOM

Activities are centred around creative and imaginative play. We have a round table where a different activity linked to five of the six areas of learning from the foundation stage are planned and implemented by a staff member each day. This could involve a painting activity, cooking, sticking, box modelling, working with clay, science and mathematical activities or an activity for use as a main display for the nursery. The children enjoy free play in this room from a wide selection of activities which include:

- Construction toys;
- Stories, books and music;
- Floor toys;
- Jigsaws and threading/lacing;
- Mark making area with drawing, tracing, colouring in, cutting out;
- Imaginative play – dressing up and a house corner which may take a theme such as a restaurant, a hospital, a hairdressers, a shoe shop etc.

### THE PRE-SCHOOL ROOM (Quiet Room)

We strive to provide a wide range of planned play opportunities which enable the children to learn through practical hands on experiences. These will include:

- Playing board games, jigsaws, sorting and matching activities, number games and activities to develop early numeracy and communication, language and literacy skills.
- Other early pre-school skills in writing, reading and letter sounds are recorded in a series of activity books designed and provided by the nursery. Children are motivated to work at their own pace and at a level which is relevant to them. Completed books are sent home so parents can see the progress their child is making. Reading books, if and when appropriate, are provided by the nursery.
- We have a library and 3 year old children and above can choose a book each week to share with parents.
- A computer is situated in the Quiet Room, and early skills are promoted in this area.

## THE RUMPUS ROOM

Activities are centred around physical and imaginative play.

These will include:

- Climbing frame, Slide, Soft play, Large wall blackboard and chalks;
- Messy area which includes free play with sand, water, paint and malleable materials;
- Parachute, music and movement and musical instruments.

## OUTDOOR PLAY

Activities are available for physical and imaginative play. Centred on lawned, paved and bark areas, activities will include:

- Wooden fort and adventure play area, Country play cottages, Log circle and walking planks, climbing frames and slides and swings, Pirate Ship;
- Trikes, ride-in cars and tractors;
- Sand and water play;
- Goal posts and footballs, balls and hoops;
- A nursery garden where the children grow fruit, vegetables and flowers;
- We have regular nature walks around our fields behind the nursery throughout the year.

Policy Reviewed  
**October 2014**