**Play Based Learning (EYFS)**

**What is the EYFS?**

The Green Cave Day Nursery follows to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This is a statutory framework which has a flexible approach to care and learning. This framework is reviewed and updated by the Government every few years; it allows us to support your child’s development from birth to five years.

**How does this support you and your child?**

The EYFS is a play based approach to learning therefore it is not about introducing a formal curriculum in which the children need to be able to read and write. This way the children are learning through play whether indoors, outdoors, in a group activity to individually. Our experienced practitioners observe your child while they play, to not only get a better understanding of your child but also plan and provide appropriate learning experiences to aid the development of new skills.

The EYFS is made up of 7 areas of learning which are interlinked to each other. The first 3 areas are the prime areas of learning - these are building blocks that lay the foundations to allow your child to progress further. The 3 prime areas are:

* **Communication and language development** involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
* **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
* **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

As your child moves through the EYFS they are then supported in the other 4 areas of learning in addition to the Prime areas. These are called the specific areas:

* **Literacy development** involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.
* **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measure.
* **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.
* **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

However, the emphasis of this is placed on supporting each child and their family no matter their needs and requirements. Parents/carers know their child best therefore we feel it is important to have strong relationships between the staff and their immediate care givers. We understand that in order for the child to have a healthy early development they need to feel like their needs are being catered for.

In order for us to do this we follow the Key Person Approach. This is a strong system that allows each family to create a connection with specific members of staff at the nursery. These members of staff will be responsible for the day to day care of your child as well as observing the progression and development they make. Please see our Parent Guide on the key person approach as to how this system works for our nursery.

**Observation and assessment**

As mentioned before the child’s key person is responsible for observing the child through their play but they also assess the children to see where they are at in their development.

This is ongoing and allows us to identify whether they need any further support to aid their development. This enables the practitioner to understand the way your child learns and what their current likes, dislikes and interests are in order to plan new appropriate experiences to captivate the child’s sense of awe and wonder.

Upon joining the nursery, your child will have an EYLog account created; this an online learning journey in which you can see observations, pictures/videos as well as links to the EYFS. Throughout their time at nursery this will build an overall picture of your child. This will remain with your child as they move through the nursery and plays a part of the ongoing assessment process. Parents are very much encouraged to share their child’s home experiences with us which will allow their key person to plan further play experiences for that child.

**Progress Check at the age of 2**

Between the age of 2 and 3 years the child’s key person will fill out a 2 year Progress Report which focusses on the 3 prime areas. This check is a useful tool as it highlights the areas in which your child is progressing well in addition to any areas that need extra support. This will then be discussed in an informal meeting where the child’s parents/carers are able to ask any questions they may have.