

Curriculum/Planning Policy



Mid Annandale Playcare recognises the importance of quality care and education for young children. We are committed to providing a stimulating and challenging environment which will develop and broaden children's learning experiences, leaving them confident, eager, highly motivated and disposed to learn more.

We believe in a developmentally appropriate curriculum which takes into account the importance of the whole child and the stage of development he or she has reached. We recognise that people learn in a variety of different ways and that for very young children the following opportunities make powerful contributions to a child's learning:

- To have first hand experience of a range of different activities and learning situations
- To play
- To talk, interact and socialise with other people.

The Importance of the Child

Mid Annandale Playcare aims to provide a curriculum which has regard to the best interests of the child. It will do this by:

- Identifying and assessing the individual needs of children
- Building on children's previous experience
- Keeping profiles on individual children to monitor progress and inform planning
- Recognising the interdependence of care and education by paying due regard to the welfare, safety and well-being of the child
- Adopting a flexible approach to planning the curriculum to incorporate ideas, interests and concerns indicated by the children and / or parents or carers
- Encouraging all children to participate in the full range of activities and experiences offered
- Working with parents and carers
- Fostering equal opportunities between adults and children involved in the setting

The Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3 to 18 years. The curriculum refers to the activities and experiences, planned and unplanned, offered to the children from which they can learn, either formally or informally. The curriculum aims to support and guide their learning and development by enabling them to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding
- Practice and acquire skills
- Acquire values and attitudes
- Acquire confidence, self esteem and resilience
- Make friends and form relationships

The curriculum framework will emphasise the processes by which children learn for example communicating, playing, observing, investigating, problem solving, experimenting, reflecting and practising.

It will offer a wide range of situations, experiences, events and activities which will excite children's curiosity and motivate and stimulate them to learn.

It will offer a broad and balanced approach to the learning opportunities necessary to promote and support children's learning and development.

The setting will plan learning and development opportunities using the Curriculum for Excellence (3-18) which sets out to enable all children to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals

- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors

The following curriculum areas, identified in Curriculum for Excellence, will be followed at the early year's level:

- Expressive Arts
- Health & Wellbeing
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Religious & Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Where appropriate, the curriculum will also take into account the key principles of Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families which are:

- Rights of the child
- Relationships
- Responsive Care
- Respect

Mid Annandale Playcare recognises the importance of play to children's all round development and will ensure that a variety and range of play activities and experiences are planned and provided which supports their learning.

We will offer a safe, stimulating environment, indoors and outdoors, where children feel secure and confident to explore, experiment, interact and take up new challenges in their learning and development.

Planning

Good planning comes from building upon children's interests and ideas and ensures that the children's learning is effective, exciting, varied and progressive. Effective planning must be underpinned by the staff's understanding and consideration of the children's learning, development and abilities.

To achieve the best planning within each group it is beneficial for all the staff working with the children to be involved and to be able to contribute their ideas to the planning. It is also beneficial for a member of the management to be involved and able to support and extend their ideas and plans. Resources to extend planning are also essential within the whole nursery.

Staff plan for each playroom on a daily and weekly basis. The planning builds on the observations recorded by staff and from the children's next steps to support and extend learning. Plans always allow for events and child initiated activities. Staff evaluated planning to identify activities that have worked well and others which were less favoured. This information then informs future planning.

Continuous Provision

Planning of activities which build on the children's interests is underpinned by the resources, activities, experiences and opportunities that are identified with each department as appropriate continuous provision. These include all areas of learning and are available for self-selection for the children both indoors and out.

Individual profiles/records of the child's development will be kept for each child. Children and their parents or carers will be encouraged to contribute to its content along with the staff. The information contained in the file will be shared with parents or carers informally during day to day activities, and formally at individual parent or carer meetings with a member of staff. These records are the property of the child and will be given to the child when he or she leaves Mid Annandale Playcare. Information

will not be disclosed to any other person without the consent of parents or carers. Their file can be signed in and out of the building if required by the parent.

Evaluating the Curriculum

Mid Annandale Playcare aim to offer high quality childcare and education and it recognises the importance of reviewing and evaluating its practice against this aim.

Planning is monitored by each playroom and management to ensure that standards are maintained, a breadth of provision is provided and all areas of learning are offered to the children.

Through observing, talking to and listening to children, staff will monitor and record individual children's progress. The information gained will be used to ensure that children's needs are being met and that they are being offered activities and experiences which are relevant and meaningful to them.

We will comply with the inspection process required under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and the National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 as implemented by the Care Inspectorate. Mid Annandale Playcare is in partnership with a local authority, we will comply with the inspection requirements of Education Scotland and will endeavour to implement recommendations from inspection visits within a reasonable timescale and will also implement any actions that arise from its own reviews of the curriculum.

Staff/Senior meetings will be used to monitor and assess the relevance of the curriculum. Staff will attend training in curriculum development, in order to keep abreast of developments. Evaluation tools, such as The Child at the Centre will be used to review and evaluate the curriculum offered, and to formulate development plans for maintaining and improving quality across the curriculum.

Review completed (date) _____

Signed _____ Designation _____

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Signed _____ Designation _____