

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last few months we have been researching better ways of helping the children learn and reach their full potential and we believe we have found the best way in what is becoming known as 'In The Moment Planning'. We have put together this information to explain how 'In The Moment Planning' (ITMP) works and how you can help us to support your child's learning and development.

Planning

The cycle of observation, assessment, planning, observation will be carried out on a moment-by-moment basis. We will have focus children each week (approximately 10% of the group). Activities that occur are recorded when the cycle is complete. These records are placed on the learning journeys for the focus children.

We believe this is best because ...

"Babies and young children are experiencing and learning in the here and now, not storing up their questions until tomorrow or next week. It is in that moment of curiosity, puzzlement, effort or interest – the 'teachable moment' – that the skilful adult makes a difference. By using this cycle on a moment-by-moment basis, the adult will be always alert to individual children (observation), always thinking about what it tells us about the child's thinking (assessment), and always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support children's well-being and learning (planning for the next moment)."

Progress and Development

When children show high levels of involvement, that is when there is progress and development occurring – when the brain is at its most active. High level involvement occurs most often when children are able to pursue their own interests in an enabling environment supported by skilled staff. Planning in the moment helps to make this possible.

The Role of The Adult

The adults are there to facilitate learning. They do this through observations and interactions. Our staff know the children very well and have a sound understanding of child development. This ensures that the adults enhance and extend the learning at the appropriate level.

Planning in the moment

We use the observation cycle on a moment-by-moment basis. The focus children are given extra attention, but all the children are busy and learning all the time.

How you can help

Each week we will select the focus children for the following week. Each child will be a focus child once in each term. Once the focus children have been selected, we will email you a parent consultation sheet to fill in. All we ask is that you fill in the sheet in as much detail as possible and take some photos (no more than 10) over the weekend of your child/family. We then ask that you email your photos, so we can print them for your child's learning journal and return the parent consultation sheet by the date specified.

Yours sincerely,

Nursery management team