

SURLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Catrin Parry-Jones



Walnut Hill, Surlingham, Norwich NR14 7DQ Tel/Fax: 01508 538214
E-mail: office@surlingham.norfolk.sch.uk Website: www.surlinghamschool.co.uk

SURLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL **EARLY YEARS POLICY**

This document has been created to focus and bring attention to the importance of early years education. This focus on the needs of children in the foundation stage* provides an opportunity to establish a shared view of what is meant by good practice in terms of education and early learning.

* Foundation Stage – the period from age three to the end of the reception year

BROAD CURRICULUM AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

*"Children who feel confident in themselves and their own ability have a head start"*¹.

- To provide an environment that is safe and secure.
- To create a stimulating environment that supports the six early learning goals, personal, social and emotion development, language and literacy, mathematical development, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development and creative development.
- To create environment which helps children develop a positive image of themselves and fosters their sense of identity.

*"Play is essential for the healthy growth and successful development of young human beings."*².

- To create an ordered and stable environment.
- Recognition that children learn at different rates and learn in different ways and have many individual emotional, social, physical intellectual and spiritual needs.
- Recognition of the importance of play.
- A concentration on building on what the child can do rather than what they can't.

-To create an environment that fosters positive relationships between children and between adults and children.

-Respect and equal regard for themselves, their background, culture and beliefs.

-An environment that encourages a partnership between parents and teachers.

References:-

1. Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning.
2. Quality and Diversity in Early Learning.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

In the early years children will be encouraged to learn through active involvement.

"Purposeful play is an essential and rich part of the learning process. Play is a powerful motivator, encouraging children to be creative and to develop their ideas, understanding and language. Through play, children explore, apply and test out what they know." 1.

-Young children need an environment that encourages them to learn through first hand experiences, talk and play.

-Children learn most effectively through actions rather than from instruction.

"Young children in particular need to engage all their senses in the process of learning, for them learning is doing." 2.

-Children learn best when they are actively involved and interested.

"Young children in particular need to engage all their senses in the process of learning, for them learning is doing." 3.

-Independence will be fostered in all areas of the curriculum.

-Children should be encouraged to be independent and independent thinkers for life long learning.

References:-

1. Starting with Quality
2. Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning
3. Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning

PLANNING AND ORGANIZING THE CURRICULUM

-The learning environment should be well planned to ensure that all children have access to a broad and balanced range of activities in the areas of personal, social spiritual and cultural understanding, language and literacy, mathematics, knowledge and understanding of the world, creative and physical abilities.

-Planning should allow for the integrated way that children learn.

"Young children learn from everything that happens to them and around them they do not separate their learning into subjects or disciplines." 1.

-Planning should show the progression in the children's learning and should show the clear learning intentions and objections.

-Planning should allow for and show adult directed and child initiated activities.

-Observations, assessments and previous records should be used to provide progression in planning and teaching and learning.

References:-

1. Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning.

ASSESSMENT IN THE RECEPTION YEAR

"Assessment is a process that must enrich their lives, their learning and development. Assessment must work for children." 4.

-Assessment in a variety of forms is essential to allow for future curriculum provision and to plan appropriate learning experiences.

-Assessment highlights, strengths and identifies areas of development and support for each child.

-Reporting to parents and carers throughout the year is a vital part of assessment.

Assessments used:-

Informal, general observations which occur in a natural early years setting.

Norfolk Baseline Assessment

Bury Infant Check

References:-

4. Mary Jane Drummond – Assessing Children's Learning.

HOME AND THE COMMUNITY

"Children are most likely to thrive and learn in a secure triangle of care provided by parents, professionals and the community as a whole." 1.

"Parents are the most important people in their children's lives.

It is from parents that children learn the most, particularly in the early months and years." 2.

Links with parents:-

-Parent, carer and child are welcome to visit and experience at least two pre-school visits.

-Parents/carers visit school on open evenings to discuss their child starting school.

- Teachers visit pre-school group and nursery to meet parents and children prior to school.
- Regular discussions informal and formal between teachers and individual parents/carers.
- Time made available for teachers, support agencies and parents/carers to discuss special needs of individual children.

The Community:-

- Strong links maintained with pre-school group.
- Teachers visit pre-school group sessions.
- Teachers attend pre-school group committee meetings.
- Regular liaison between pre-school group leaders and teachers.
- Contact maintained with all the appropriate support services.

References:-

1. Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning.
2. Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning.

Bibliography

Sir Christopher Ball Start Right. The Importance of Early Learning
(March 1994)

The Early Childhood Education Forum Quality and Diversity in the Early Years NCB (1998)

Mary Jane Drummond Making Assessment Work (1992)

Reference:-

Norfolk County Council:- Early Learning. Ensuring Quality Provision of Children Under 5 (1977)

(4pages, 964 words)

September 2000 (S.M)

Revised

