



EAGLEY SCHOOL HOUSE NURSERIES

"The Eagley Way" - Information for Parents

Welcome

Welcome to Eagley School House Nurseries 1 and 2

The most important aspect of "*The Eagley way*" is to make everyone feel welcome. Over many years of practice we have found that to work hard on making families and children feel relaxed and welcome, from the start, is the only way to build really positive relationships where everyone is seen as important in the child's journey through their most formative years.

Families as partners and a homely environment

We hope that you will find both nurseries as an extension of your home; a place where your child should be as relaxed, as if they are at home. Younger children must have access to soft furnishings, couches and cushions which reflect home life.

We exchange information about children with family members regularly and try to support and praise them for their achievements in caring for their children. We are never judgemental or patronising and we hope that parents and carers will treat us in the same way. Home visits are imperative to gathering information regarding the children.



Staff training

Eagley School House Nurseries places great emphasis on the importance of giving staff time to learn and be reflective. Meetings with experienced members of staff are held regularly, so that thoughts, ideas and concerns can be shared, and professional dialogue between staff is encouraged. There is no hierarchy at Eagley School House Nurseries. The owners see all staff as important in making the vision of excellence real and hope that each member of staff feels valued, wants to work alongside us and can contribute and bring about change where necessary. We are always evaluating, moving forward and trying new ideas and methods of delivering outstanding childcare.

An optimistic view of the child

We believe that children are competent, strong and have a desire to explore and investigate from birth. They are not empty vessels for us to fill with information, but inquisitive human beings who simply need lots of love and security and the right environment, resources, with knowledgeable adults and other children to help them build their knowledge and fulfil their potential.

The importance of black and white for babies

We value the impact of black and white for young babies to visualise and focus their eyes. Research shows that **High Contrast Colours are STILL the best**. Newborns can see from birth, just not as clearly as an older child or adults. Until your child is about six months of age, they will respond best to bold, contrasting colours and graphics. That's why it's important to provide your baby with toys that feature the visual extremes of black, white and red. These high-contrast colours will captivate and hold your babies attention, encouraging visual development as well as physical activity - like wiggling, kicking and arm waving. This is an integral part of our Baby Room philosophy.



Opportunity before outcomes

The aim of Eagley School House Nurseries is to provide rich opportunities for learning and acquiring skills. We set up an exciting and stimulating environment which allows children to choose what they want to do. With experienced staff nearby children can direct their own learning. Staff are trained to intervene only when necessary, as too much adult involvement may change the direction in which the child was taking an activity. There are times when the adult can intervene at just the right time to maintain the interest and extend the learning.

Offering children a range of possibilities and opportunities that they can draw on rather than organising activities which will help them to reach predetermined objectives requires a different approach to planning. The environment, along with the resources and a good amount of choice are crucial for success. Once the child becomes involved, adults need to be aware of the strategies and methods each child is employing, how they are solving problems, interacting with each other and materials they are using. This needs to be accurately documented, analysed and reflected upon.

Toddlers

Using imaginative play and messy play the two split rooms allow for children to have full independence and continuous provision.

The role play and quiet areas allow children to choose their activities and learn through play



The messy areas allows children to explore textures, paint, be malleable and learn about their likes and dislikes



The Nursery curriculum

We feel that adults who have specific knowledge and a passion for certain areas can enhance the children's lives and broaden their experiences. We have two EYP teachers resident. In addition to this we offer Spanish lessons with our Spanish teacher, music and movement with Miss Nicki and mini maestros, and swimming lessons with multi skilled professionals assessing children's outcomes. The specialists compliment the role of the key person by adding their own observations to children's journals.

We teach children sign and sing, with children encouraged to learn through music. The introduction of sticky kids and the brain gym has allowed children to learn to switch on their big listening ears. Children are free to explore a range of instruments and experiment with sound using an assortment of multi cultural and home-made instruments.

Creativity

Art and design are given a very high priority at Eagley.



Children use many different materials to create art work. Staff document the processes they go through as they are mixing the media and materials.

Eagley School House Nurseries view choice and creativity as the most important vehicles for finding out. We provide a vast amount of natural and junk materials for the children to explore and use in different ways. We are interested in the processes they go through rather than the end results when they examine and use different media and materials. For example, an array of plastic bottle tops can be used to become accustomed to smooth, hard round surfaces. They can be used with glue and paint to create collages, pushed into clay or dough to make patterns, counted, sorted into egg cartons or used as pretend money in a shop. We feel that providing too many realistic manufactured toys reduces children's ability to use their imagination.



There are always natural materials to feel and find out about.

Outdoors



The Sensory Garden

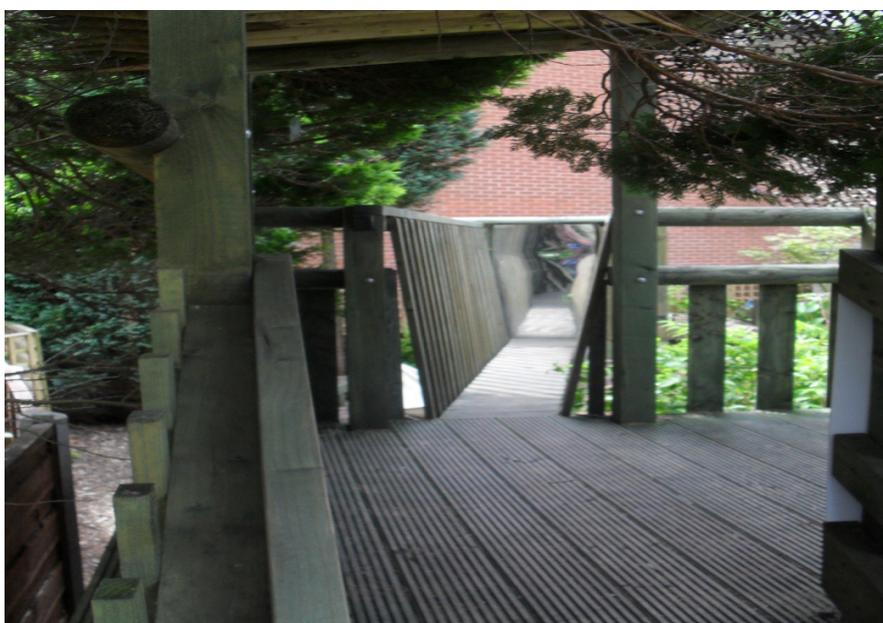


Girls develop personal and social skills and investigate nature in the sensory garden.

outdoors and mark make.



Children can explore using their imagination and all their senses to touch, see, hear and smell. All plant life is tactile, with natural smells of lavender, lemongrass and mint.



Use the observation tower to teach children to take risks in their environment. Use the trees to learn about wildlife. Or why not let the children relax in the outdoors and take a look at the sky to observe and listen to sounds of nature



Children need to be outdoors as much as possible and this is only one of the two gardens at Eagley School House Nurseries.



Documentation

Once an enabling environment has been created, the staff can spend most of their time facilitating children's learning, then documenting some of the processes they are going through in the child's journal. Written observations are used, which describe these processes, along with snippets of conversations. The member of staff will then reflect on this observation and analyse the learning which has taken place and maybe consider if there are any next steps which need to be catered for. Photographs often accompany these observations and are shared daily with parents at collection time.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Some activities are led by the adult and focus on a particular area of learning in order to give the children the full range of experiences. Each child has a progress and achievement folder, which is a

booklet of development matters and early learning goals. Every few weeks, the child's key person looks at each child's journal and the observations, reflections and photographs and matches them to

development matters points. They can then see if the child is progressing in line with the ages and stages from the EYFS. Such information is shared daily by sending the journals and files home for parents to share with their child. Please read your EYFs curriculum policy in your brochures for further information.

Overall you will find "*the Eagley Way*" has been a success for many years. It is embedded in the philosophy and ethos of the nursery. We hope your experience will be a positive one, with your suggestions and support we can continue to improve outcomes for children.

