



At Monkhouse Nursery the children are the centre of everything we do. We aim to provide a learning environment in which each unique child can inquire, engage and investigate through play. Through play children take an interest and develop an understanding of the world around them. They use their creativity, build their imagination and become confident in the roles they take on. Without the children even realising, they are developing their dexterity and physical skills, becoming communicators and mathematicians, fine tuning their resilience and determination as well as building the important foundations for cognitive and emotional development.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum focuses on 4 main themes: A Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments and Learning and Development. Through these staff look at how each child is a competent learner, how they build friendships and relationships with key people and how the environment in which they are in contributes to their extended learning and development as well as respecting the different ways that each child learns.

There are 7 defined areas of learning:

Prime areas: which underpin everything we do in the Nursery

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Specific areas:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



All staff in the Nursery apply their extensive training and knowledge of child development to provide an environment which allows each child to progress through these areas of learning. Whilst creating a stimulating and secure learning space, staff monitor each of the Characteristics of Effective Learning for each child to ensure they are reaching their full potential. We record each child's progress and development through the online learning journey programme, Tapestry. This allows staff and parents to communicate with each other in an effective and clear way, sharing and celebrating developments.

Staff seize opportunities as they occur to enable the children to make that next step in their learning journey. Our provision and activities are very child

led, creating an engaging and meaningful learning environment where progress is planned and delivered in the moment.

So what will you find inside our Nursery? We pride ourselves in offering a warm and safe environment which is rich in fun and engaging activities. The inside offers areas to build and create with various materials and media, a reading and quiet area, a home role play area and small world areas. We encourage transportation as a schema of learning. This means if a child creates a pizza in the playdoh area, we fully expect and allow them to build on that creativity and transport it to the role play area where they might engage in a 'family meal' either by themselves or with another child or staff member. The child that builds a bear out of cardboard boxes and tubes can take it into the Cosy Corner to share a story with it. There are stations where children can find and use resources for mathematics, resources to investigate and resources to create. There are activity stations where children can focus on a specific skill, often linked to the specific areas of learning or fine motor skill development. We have a self-serve snack station where children come and help themselves to a snack and drink, they eat this at the dining table and are responsible for clearing away afterwards.

Our outdoor learning environment is accessible in all weathers, with wet weather clothing provided. The children can access the same learning possibilities outside as they can inside, just in a different style. There is a mud kitchen with jars of natural ingredients, a forest area with space and equipment to create dens. A large sandpit, water station, a loose parts area alongside a more traditional construction area and small world stations are many of the zoned areas we have. There is a large tarmac area with bikes, trikes and other equipment designed to develop gross motor skills as well as be an area to encourage role play, does anyone need a car wash?

At Monkhouse Nursery we have great respect for all the children coming through our doors. We provide a stimulating and engaging place to take their first steps in their life-long learning journey.

