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| **At Garden Cottage Nursery we provide a safe, secure, happy and stimulating environment for pre-school children, where they will be supported and encouraged to develop and learn through a variety of different approaches indoors and outdoors by caring, professional, trained adults.** |

Garden Cottage Nursery is registered by The Ofsted Registration and Inspection Centre to receive the Free Entitlement for eligible children.

As part of the accountability for receiving the Nursery Funding the group is inspected by an OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) Inspector to ensure that the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework is being adhered to and the Practice Guidance is being used for the planning of relevant activities to achieve the learning out comes for all seven areas of learning.

Three Prime areas:

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

Four Specific areas:

* Literacy
* Maths
* Understanding the World
* Expressive Arts and Design

The Early Years Foundation Stage covers children from Birth to five years i.e., the end of the reception year in school, preceding the National Curriculum Key Stage 1. The Early Years Foundation Stage identifies the many levels within the seven areas of learning; these are incorporated into our planned programme and can be encountered throughout our workshop areas. We take care to provide activities and experiences which use equipment appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children, to stimulate their interest, encourage investigation and enable them to practice existing skills, and to extend and acquire new skills, understanding and knowledge.

Some of the activities, exploration and knowledge are part of our planned work although most are developed in line with the interests of individuals/groups of children taken from the observations of staff.

Parents/Carers/families are also asked to contribute any ideas to the planning either in written form, suggestions made verbally to staff, or returned via e-mail in response to our planning e-mail sent out weekly.

Children learn in many different ways, by playing, talking, observing, planning, doing, questioning, experimenting, testing, repeating, reflecting and responding to adults and to each other. Well planned play both indoors and outdoors is a keyway in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge during the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The principals which guide the work of early year’s practitioners are grouped into four themes.

* A Unique Child
* Positive Relationships
* Enabling Environments
* Learning and Development

We are confident that your child will be happy with us and make steps towards achieving his or her full potential.

**Our Approach**

At Garden Cottage Nursery our teaching approach recognises play and first-hand experiences as the best way for children to learn and develop.

It gives children the opportunity to gain and embed new skills, develop their independence, confidence, and understanding. Our role as practitioners is to support these qualities and to challenge children in appropriate ways. We are very lucky to have such a lovely and unique environment in which the children can explore. These opportunities give access to the natural environment inc: Forest school, Walled Garden, and caring for the animals on the farm.

**Aims of the Nursery**

The Nursery aims to:

* Provide a safe, friendly, happy, and stimulating environment for children from birth to 4 years old. With appropriate adult to child ratio.
* Create and develop a caring, welcoming community for pre-school children which will enable them to feel happy, secure, and respected.
* Work closely with parents and provide a broad and balanced learning platform from the New Early Years Foundation Stage, which fosters the intellectual, emotional, physical, moral, social, and cultural development of children.
* Enable children to make an effective transition not only within the nursery but also from home to school.
* Help the children become familiar with classroom routines.
* Develop independence and decision-making skills.
* Our learning journals are on an online platform called Parenta, that is updated by the child’s key worker. Parenta makes it easy for us to capture detailed notes when observing a child playing, as well as making it quicker to identify where that child is in their own development pathway. There are parent consultations available throughout the year where you will have time to talk about your child’ development
* Work closely with parents and provide a broad and balanced learning platform from the New Early Years Foundation Stage, which fosters the intellectual, emotional, physical, moral, social, and cultural development of children.

All this will be achieved by providing child-centered activities which:

* Enrich their communication and understanding development.
* Challenge their physical development
* Enable children to come to terms with their own lives, feelings friendships.
* Stimulate children’s creativity.
* Encourage the children to observe and find out about the world around them, thus developing their curiosity to ask questions.
* We also do lots of fundraising for our local community and other organizations which helps the children to understand, respect and care for others that are less fortunate.

The statutory framework for the EYFS sets standards for the development, learning and care of children from birth to age 5. These standards are set to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. There are four overarching principles, these are:

* every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured
* children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
* children learn and develop well in **enabling environments with teaching and support from adults**, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
* The importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care off all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The EYFS learning and development requirements for our setting include the seven areas of learning and development and the assessment requirements. The seven areas of learning and development:

The prime areas:

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, Social, and Emotional Development

The Specific areas:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the World
4. Expressive arts and design Development.

The assessments requirements are:

1. Progress check at age 2

In September 2021 the New Early Years Foundation Stage was introduced. Changes have been made to improve outcomes at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy. I’ve attached a presentation put together for the staff. In our setting we use Development Matters (DM) for curriculum guidance for the EYFS. When planning and guiding what the children learn, we reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and their interests and adjust our practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective learning include playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically. We do have termly topics and a calendar of activities and celebrations that take place throughout the year. We encourage cultural capital and British values. Each child is assigned a key person, they will ensure that the child’s learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. We use the Jolly Phonics Sound Schemes and several reading schemes depending on the individual’s needs. Children are encouraged to develop a love of reading and you can support your child by reading with them regularly. They will bring a book home at the end of each day in their book bags as well as a textbook which is treated as a two-way method of communicating between ourselves and the parents/carers.

What to expect for daily feedback

A recent OFSTED report has stated how important it is for all staff within the early years sector to be spending time with the children teaching and helping them to develop and to reducing time staff spend on technical devices. I whole heartedly support this and enjoy seeing the team playing and stimulating the children and we are sure that this is something that you would agree with.

From May 2022 Snowdrops will still use books to communicate how your child has eaten, slept and nappies.

From September Sweetpeas will still be using dayshare to upload the children’s sleep, nappies, and food recording. Information will be uploaded at quieter times (sleep times)

In Peach, Apple, and Garden Room we are going to be using grading sheets to record children’s sleep, nappies, and food. At home times this information will be on hand please just ask and we can let you know. We will always be in contact with you if there was an issue regarding food or nappy changes etc. Doing this will reduce time spent on an iPad and more time with the children helping them learn and develop. We will still be using the portal for the weekly photos so you can see your child and their time in the nursery.

The newsletter will continue to be sent on Fridays with the weekly planning and important information.

We hold parent/staff meetings, usually Garden room and Apple room meetings will take place in the Autumn, Peach room in the Spring term and Sweet pea/Snowdrops in the Summer term. We are always on hand if you would like to speak to anyone in the Nursery just phone and make an appointment.