



Curriculum Policy

Happy Hearts is committed to:

- Offering a rich and varied curriculum;
- Creating a stimulating environment, accessible to all, in which it is fun to learn and in which every child can reach their potential

Principles

Using the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as well as topics and practical activities, the children will be given lots of opportunities to explore the world around them and understand how things work whilst being relevant to their developmental stage. They are challenged with open-ended questions and given opportunities to explore and share their ideas. We place great emphasis on children learning by doing, all the children will be given opportunities to gain first-hand experiences through play and active involvement.

The curriculum will focus on experimental learning, active involvement and developing each child's:

- Skills and understanding
- Personal, social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being so as to develop the whole child.
- Positive attitudes to learning
- Self-esteem and self-confidence to experiment, investigate, learn new things and form new relationships.
- Creative, expressive and observational skills to encourage their development as individuals with different ways of responding to experiences.
- Activities in the outdoors where the children have first-hand experience of solving real-life problems and learn about conservation and sustainability

Intention

All staff are continually:

- Implementing the EYFS and making sure it is suitable for children in their class
- Planning for the needs and interests of individual children
- Catering for different learning styles
- Using children's individual assessments and observations to inform planning to meet the needs of each individual child
- Providing a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities
- Providing a wide variety of activities and experiences on a daily basis, both inside and when we go to the park
- Using information from parents to help us to meet the needs of individual children
- Actively valuing diversity within our setting and using resources which promote positive images of all the different groups of adults and children living within our society. The curriculum offered at Happy Hearts encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves and about people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking
- Offering outings and bringing visitors to the setting to extend children's learning
- Employing well qualified, enthusiastic staff who understand how children learn and know how to promote young children's development across all areas of the EYFS

Our activities, planning and assessment takes into account the EYFS themes, these four guiding principles shape our practice at Happy Hearts;

Unique Child – every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships - Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments – Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development - Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. Our Curriculum consists of both planned and un-planned activities which are organised within the nursery and are based on the seven areas of learning.

The prime areas:

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

The specific areas:

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

Child and Adult Led Learning and Implementation

We use both child and adult led learning approaches at Happy Hearts. We recognise that children, learn best when they are able to explore their interests fully and follow their own agendas through play for any given length of time balanced alongside adult support if needed. At Happy Hearts we recognise that this is how children gain and embed new skills, develop their understanding and demonstrate their competencies.

By using this ethos children learn the following:

1. **Children develop greater independence** – Child led play allows children to set their own rules with the support of an adult if necessary
2. **Allowing children to progress at their own pace** – Some children learn better using different strategies – by combining both adult and child led play we can cater for all learning styles and no child will feel rushed into doing a certain activity.
3. **Developing decision making skills** – During free play children can choose where they want to be and what activity they want to do, this gives children practise in choosing and dealing with the consequences of their choice.
4. **Freedom** – During outdoor play children are given the space to run around and expel energy and boosts mental and physical well-being and confidence.
5. **Develop an understanding of their environment and surroundings** – learning the difference between inside and outside and the natural and man-made environments. Strong links are used from staff observations and assessments to plan, with both child and adult led activities providing many rich opportunities daily, staff then use these observations to link to planning ensuring it links in with their current interests and individual needs.

Impact on learning

On-going planning and assessment is key in order for us to support each child's learning and development. Each child has a profile where their observations and tracking are kept based around the EYFS. This is how we ensure each child is constantly learning and developing. Short Term planning is done by the child's class teacher on a weekly basis following observations and evaluation.

Our daily planning for all groups includes:

- **Imaginative / Role Play**
- **Mark Making**
- **Mathematics**
- **Language skills**
- **Construction**
- **Messy Play**
- **Discovery / small world / Exploration area**
- **Technology**
- **Malleable Materials**
- **Story-time / Circle time / Group time**
- **Music**
- **Creative**
- **Gross / Physical**
- **Dance**
- **French**
- **Science**