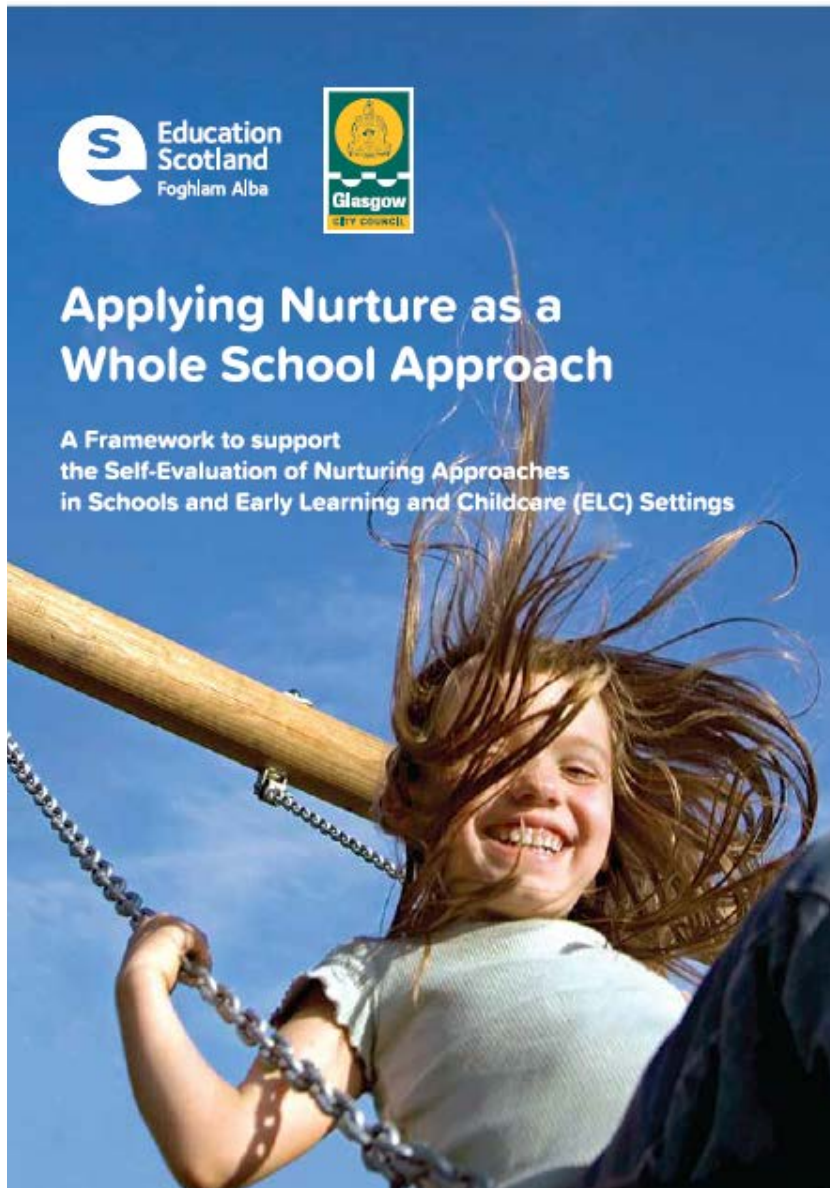


# Applying Nurture as a Whole-School Approach

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Early Years Conference, Arrochar, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017



- ❖ Available on National Improvement Hub
- ❖ Draws on “How Nurturing is Our School”
- ❖ Background of nurture
- ❖ Practical tools (e.g. observational assessment)
- ❖ Self-evaluation tools

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/inc55ApplyingNurturingApproaches120617.pdf>

# Overview

- ▶ ACES and the attainment gap
- ▶ What do we mean by nurture?
- ▶ Nurture principles
- ▶ Relationships and attunement principles in early years settings
- ▶ Journey to nurture



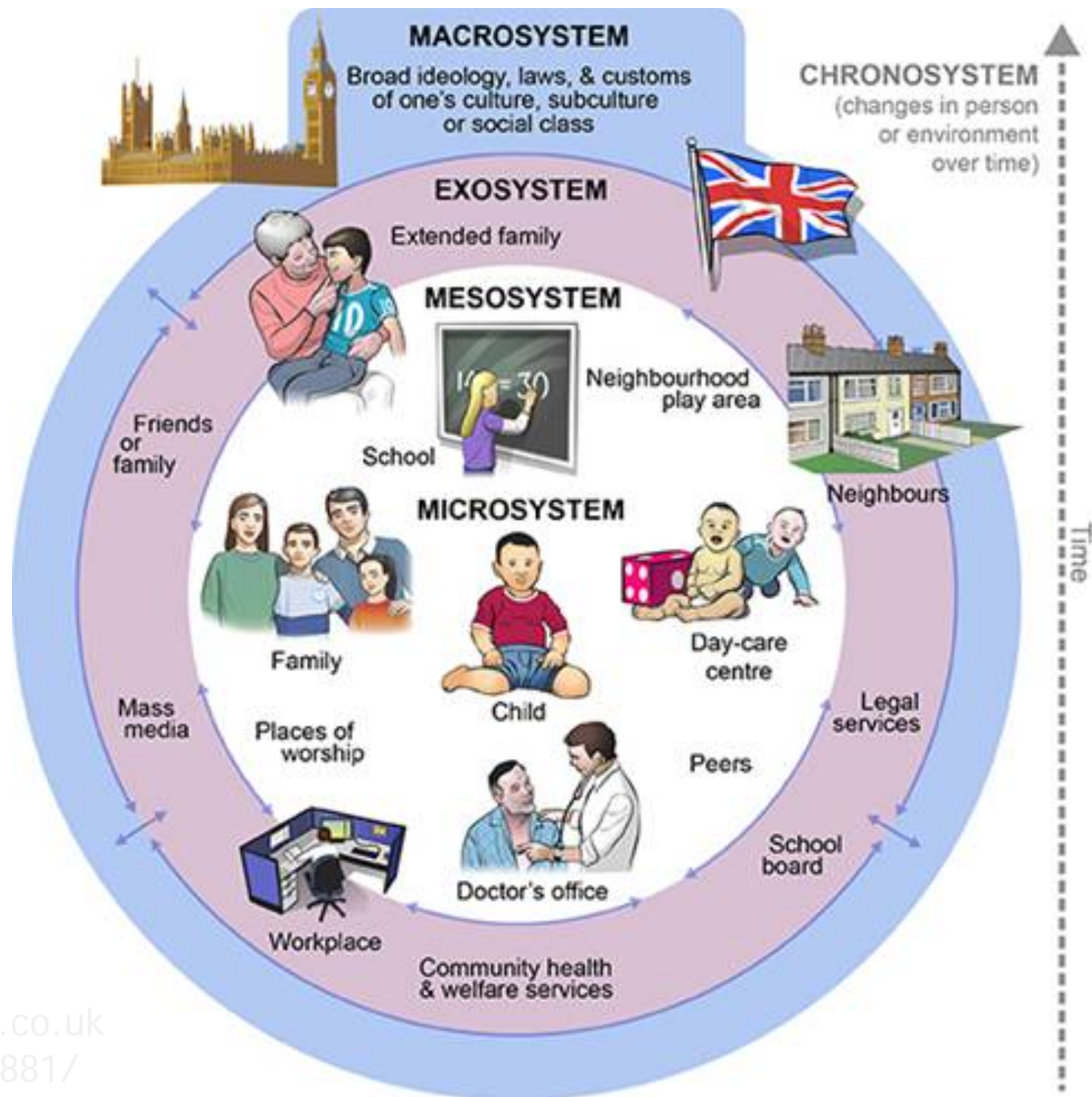


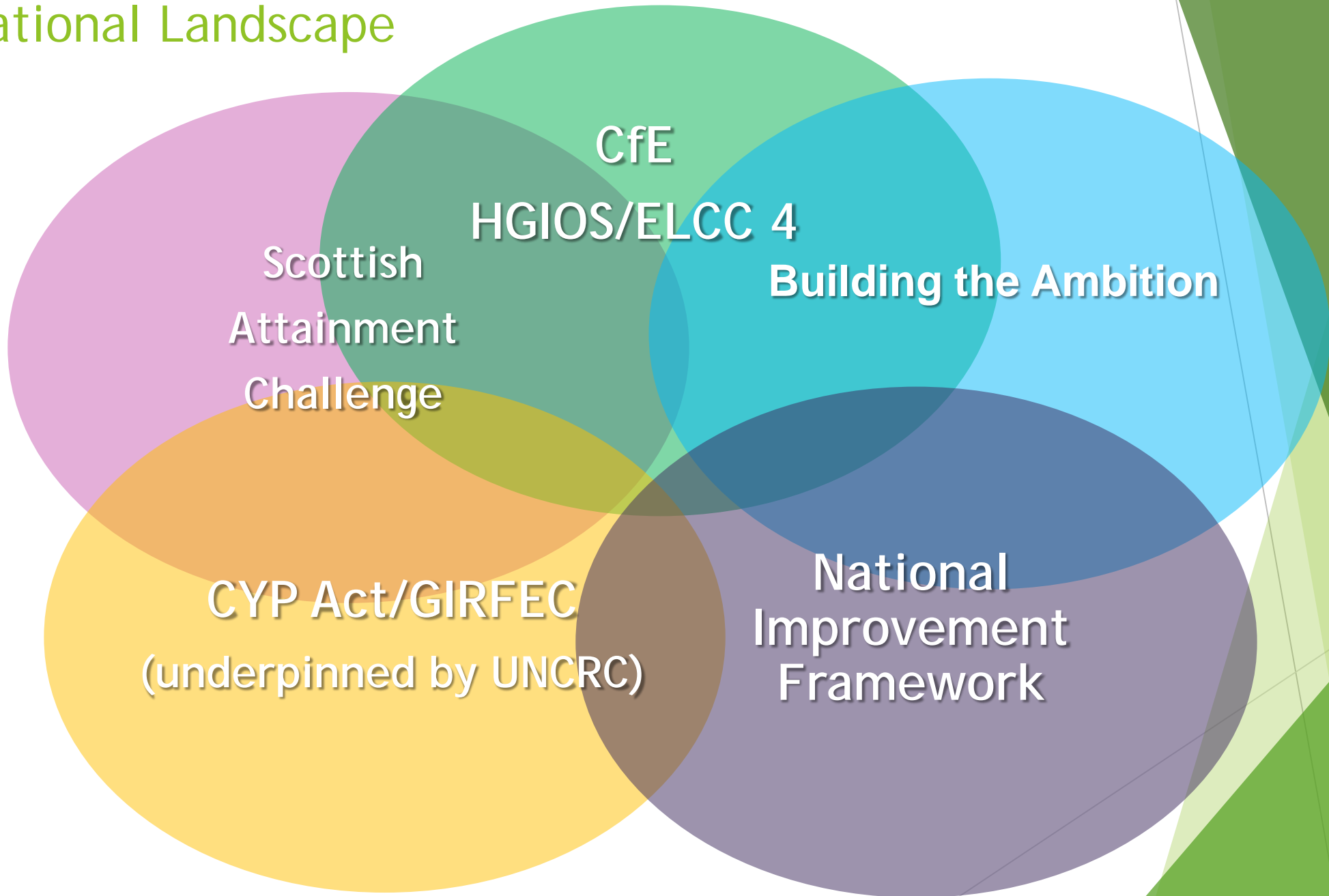
Image obtained from:  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/510666045221991881/>

"I have learned that the kindness of a teacher, a coach, a policeman, a neighbor, the parent of a friend, is never wasted. These moments are likely to pass with neither the child nor the adult fully knowing the significance of the contribution. *No ceremony attaches to the moment that a child sees his own worth reflected in the eyes of an encouraging adult. Though nothing apparent marks the occasion, inside that child a new view of self might take hold.* He is not just a person deserving of neglect or violence, not just a person who is a burden to the sad adults in his life, not just a child who fails to solve his family's problems, who fails to rescue them from pain or madness or addiction or poverty or unhappiness. No, this child might be someone else, someone whose appearance before this one adult revealed specialness or lovability, or value."

*Gavin de Becker, The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence (emphasis added)*



# Educational Landscape







The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The rest of the background is a solid, very light green.

What does nurture mean to you?

# Nurture a Dictionary Definition

1. Care for and protect someone (thing) while they are growing
2. Help or encourage the development of
3. Cherish

- Oxford Dictionary Online

the care and attention given to someone or something that is growing or developing

Merriam and Webster

# Two Pillars of Nurture

## Care

- Attunement
  - Warmth
- Connection
  - Empathy

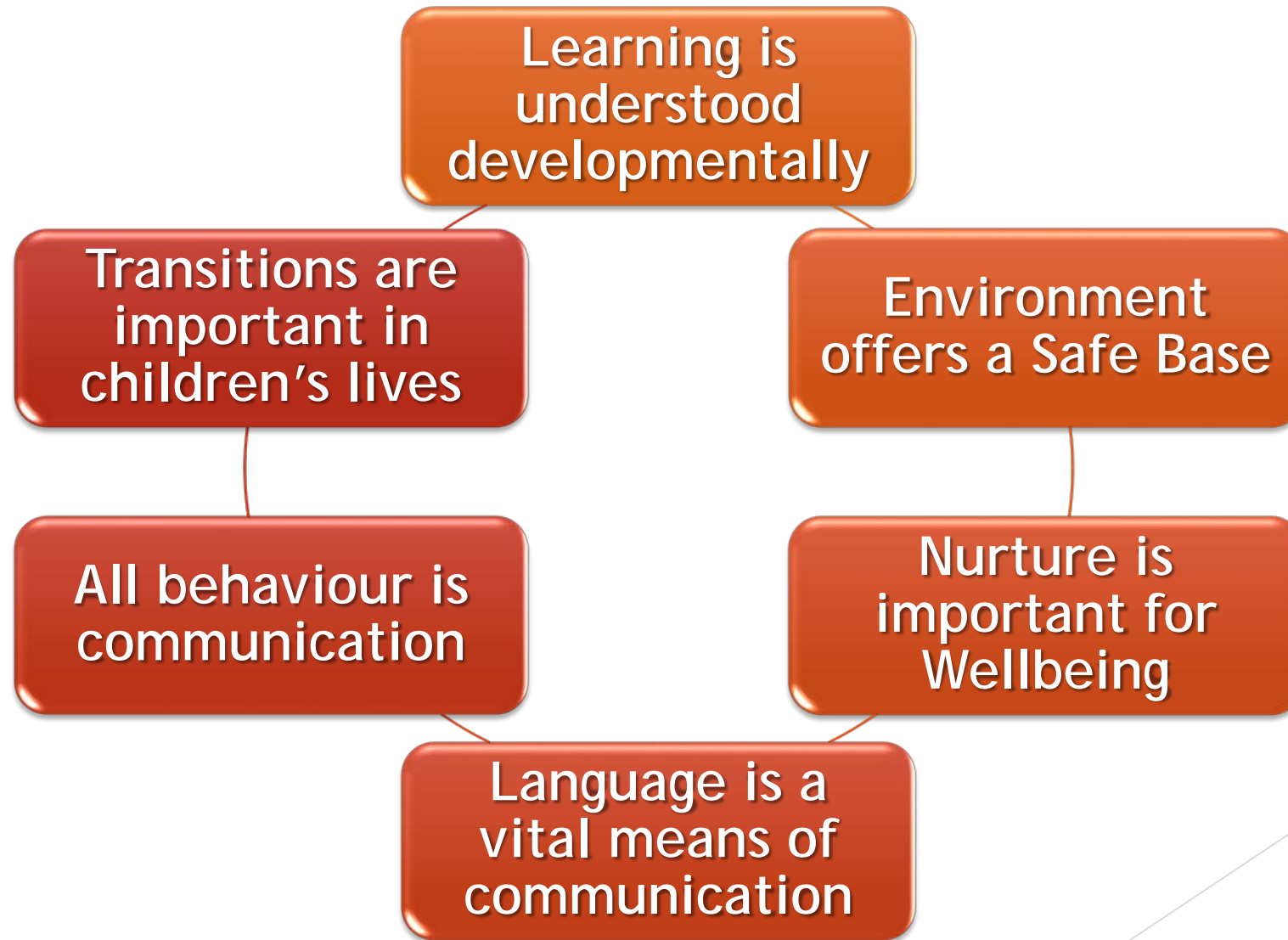
And

## Push

- Structure
- Expectations
  - Press

What does nurture look like?

# The 6 Nurturing Principles



# Physical environment

- An example of an early years environment set out with nurture in mind - notice the opportunities for sensory experiences, soft furnishings, quiet/private spaces



the living room.wmv





Routine

Assessment

Structure

Developmental

Modelling

Meaningful  
Interactions

Language

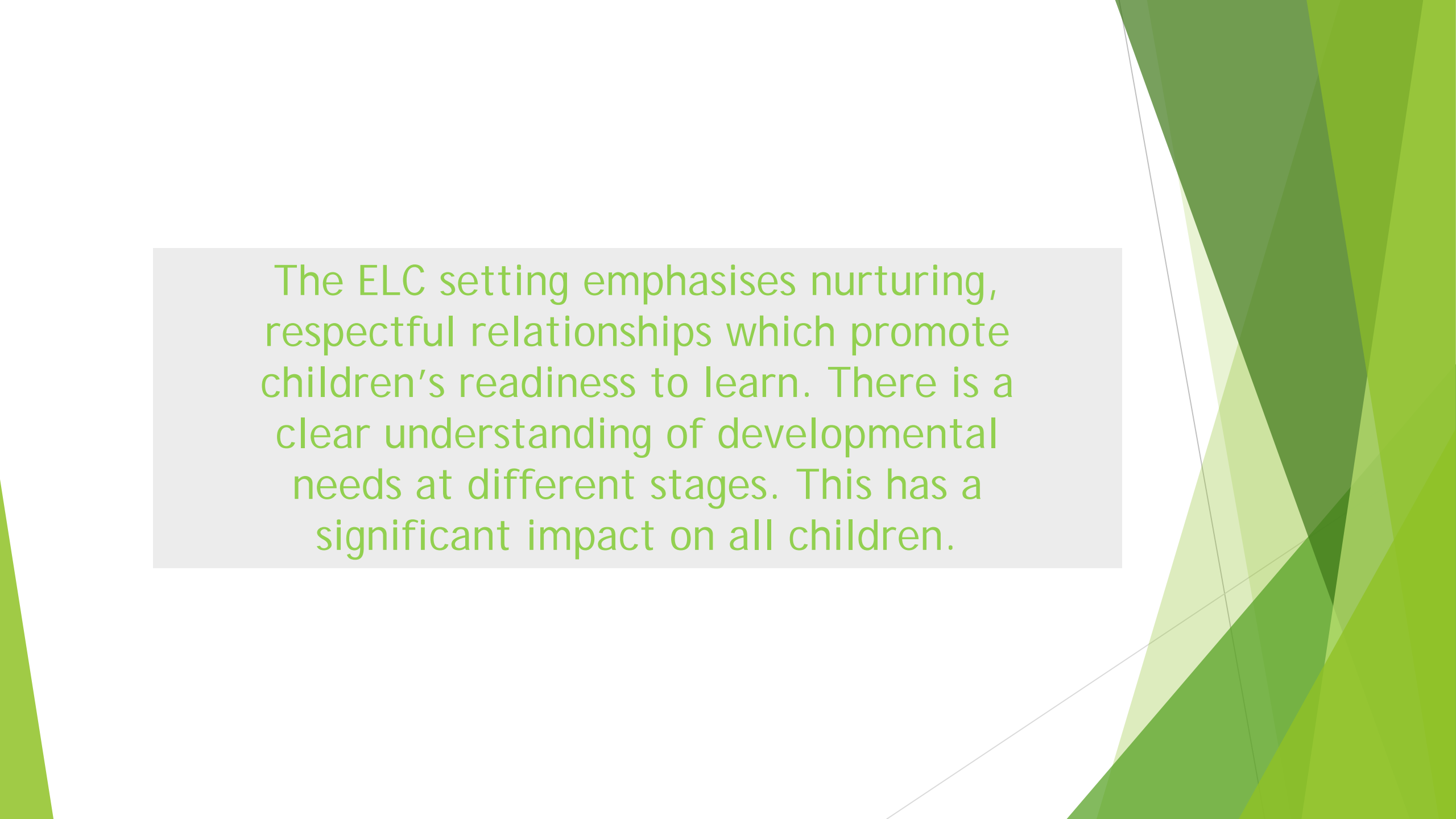
Understanding of  
Behaviour

Recreation  
of Early  
Experiences

Attachment

Inclusive

Nurture  
Principles

The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side and bottom, creating a modern, dynamic feel. A light gray rectangular box is positioned on the left side, containing the main text.

The ELC setting emphasises nurturing, respectful relationships which promote children's readiness to learn. There is a clear understanding of developmental needs at different stages. This has a significant impact on all children.

# Principles of Attunement: Being Attentive

Are you supporting the interaction by

...

... looking interested?

... smiling?

... looking interested?

... nodding?

... using friendly intonation?

... friendly posture?

... waiting/leaving space?

Are you paying close attention by...

... turning towards?

... watching?

... listening?

... looking for initiatives?

... trying to work out what is in the  
child's head (wondering)?

# Principles of Attunement: Initiative and reception

Are you responding to initiatives by

...

... naming what you hear?

... checking that you have understood?

... saying "yes"?

Are you encouraging initiatives from  
the child by...

... showing you are interested?

... naming what you see or hear?

... saying what you are doing?

... saying what you are thinking?

# Principles of Attunement: Interaction

Are you forming a group by...

- ... sharing turns around the group?
- ... giving turns?
- ... receiving turns?
- ... helping children receive your and others' turns?

Are you encouraging short turn taking by...

- ... taking short turns yourself?
- ... waiting attentively after your turn?
- ... giving the child a second turn on the same topic?
- ... receiving their second turn?

# Principles of Attunement: Scaffolding

Are you extending a child's responses by...

- ... taking initiatives?
- ... building on their responses?
- ... making suggestions that they can follow?
- ... offering choices that they can understand?

Are you balancing leading and following by...

- ... introducing initiatives that encourage a response from the child?
- ... providing help where needed?
- ... giving the child information they need?
- ... saying what you are going to do?



# What is your journey to nurture?

Understanding  
importance of  
attachment and  
trauma

Know the  
nurture  
principles

Self-evaluation  
activity: where  
next in your  
setting?

Measuring  
children's  
progress

Complement  
existing  
approaches?



# What do children think makes a Nurturing school?

