

QI 2.2: Curriculum

Themes

Rationale and design
Learning and development pathways
Pedagogy and play
Skills for life and learning

Descriptor

This indicator highlights the importance of placing the needs of children at the centre of curriculum design and development. It focuses on the importance of offering children rich and exciting play and learning opportunities, indoors, outdoors and within their community. The curriculum is designed to reflect local and national circumstances. The curriculum is most effective when it is highly relevant to children and families and has been shaped by their engagement. A clear and shared pedagogy promotes high quality learning and teaching and results in positive outcomes for all children.

Level 5 illustration:

Rationale and design

- We are clear about the purpose of our curriculum framework. It is based on shared values and takes full account of local needs and circumstances. Our very good understanding of pedagogy and play in learning is evident in our delivery of the curriculum for babies, toddlers and the young child. It provides equity of opportunity for all. Innovative and creative approaches are encouraged to ensure that children make very good progress in all aspects of their learning and development. Our curriculum framework secures children's wellbeing and rights including the right to play. We reflect a positive image of each child as a capable and competent learner. It is informed by national guidance and pays close attention to achieving challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance. We work consistently well with our stakeholders and partners in reviewing the purpose of our curriculum ensuring it reflects the changing and unique needs of our children, families and community. We take very good account of emerging developments and current research in the care and learning of children when refreshing and reviewing our curriculum approaches. Our creative and innovative approaches to curriculum design support positive outcomes for children and families.

Learning and developmental pathways

- We provide a high-quality curriculum framework for children that is very well matched to the stages of development of our babies, toddlers and young children. We carefully promote strong nurturing attachments for children in our care. We very effectively build on the prior and continuous learning of our children, within and beyond the setting. We actively promote and effectively develop the essential aspects for early learning: wellbeing, communication, mathematics, curiosity, inquiry and creativity to secure the very best outcomes for our children. Our practitioners set high expectations and aspirations for all children. All practitioners take responsibility for developing early literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. We plan carefully to ensure all of our children experience very effective continuity and progression through to the next stage of their learning. Our practitioners introduce well-considered curriculum innovations that successfully enrich children's learning. We plan very effectively to take full account of each child's needs, dispositions, interests and stage of development. Our approaches to planning are flexible and highly responsive ensuring that children are making sustained progress in their learning.

Pedagogy and play

- Our curriculum framework is based firmly on play and active learning. It is stimulating and engaging and offers all children challenge and enjoyment. Our practitioners are confident and knowledgeable. In their practice, they demonstrate their deep understanding of the critical role of play in promoting children's development and learning. There is a shared understanding in our setting of pedagogy and practitioners readily engage in debate and dialogue about ensuring high quality play. Children are provided with rich, relevant experiences to enhance their play and practise skills, explore the world around them and develop knowledge and understanding in their own way and in their own time. We provide innovative and creative opportunities for children to experience high quality play both indoors and outdoors. Our well-timed and skilled interventions effectively promote children's creativity, extend their thinking, widen their skills and consolidate their learning in play.

Skills for life and learning

- We provide very good opportunities to support the development of children's skills for life and learning, and an awareness of the world in which they live and grow. High priority is given to the development of children's health and wellbeing, and to the development of their skills in communication, early language and early mathematics. Through our highly responsive approach, our children are developing a broad range of skills within motivating and relevant contexts. Our children respond positively to challenge and they enjoy solving problems alone and with others. We very skilfully support children to take forward their own ideas and interests. We help them to experience a sense of achievement and to understand the reasons for their success. Our children's curriculum is enriched by the very effective contributions of carefully chosen partnerships. Together we successfully plan and deliver relevant, real-life opportunities for young children to apply their developing skills. We have established a suitable range of highly effective partnerships with parents/carers and the wider community to nurture an enterprising culture.