

## **Care, learning and play**

Little Paws nursery aims to promote and encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our primary goal is enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

Little Paws nursery plans activities to support children's learning and development around the early years foundation stage and plans individual learning opportunities around each of the child's interests to enable the children to be interested and challenged.

### **Key persons**

Every child will be assigned a key person and this person will keep individual planning, observations and tracking of their development using IPIOD's (individual plans of development) and tracking sheets. Initial assessments will be done with the use of parents information provided and keyperson observations within 1 week of a child starting nursery and then at regular intervals throughout the year, these will be reviewed by the manager and SENCO to ensure children are working within their expected levels of development, and if not they will speak to the child's key person and parent if necessary, and access support from outside agencies if required.

### **The EYFS**

The eyfs is a document which outlines typical learning outcomes for children from birth to 60 months and are divided into three prime areas – communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. These areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. Four specific areas of learning and development where the three prime areas are strengthened and applied are- literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and expressive arts and design. These 7 areas of learning are divided in to aspects of learning and each child within the nursery will be supported throughout all areas of learning.

### **Observations**

Observations will be used to support the assessment of children's progress and will be used to observe the children during play, be used to support and extend play by planning and resourcing a challenging environment, to create appropriate stepping stones to help children learn through play and develop towards their early learning goals, become engaged in play and encourage the development of communication, both verbal and non-verbal, and know when to take a back seat and let children play without an adult.

Written and photographic evidence and observations are used for children's learning journals, to share with parents/carers, to help plan for future topics, identify any special needs and share knowledge with outside agencies, to share with colleagues and to pass information on to schools or other early years care if needed.

### **Outdoor play**

Outdoor play opportunities will be provided every day, weather permitted, and children are encouraged to bring in their own wellington boots to use in wet weather play but Little Paws nursery will have a small number of spare ones which children may borrow. When outside free flow sessions are available staff will be positioned throughout indoors and out to ensure all children can be seen and observed and regular headcounts will be completed to ensure the correct number of adult:child ratios are kept to. Staff will have walkie talkies to call for support from within inside or outside the building.

### **Involving children**

Children will be involved as much as possible in the planning of the nursery and future topics to be talked about. We believe if children are involved then children will be interested in learning and engaging in activities. Children's views will be sought on areas such as food and drink for snack bar, budget decisions e.g. selecting new equipment, surroundings etc.

**Signed.....manager/owner**

**Date: September 2016**

**Review date: September 2017**