

WISE OWLS CHILDCARE

Play is how we SPREAD OUR WINGS and grow

CURRICULUM



Our approach to delivering a high quality curriculum

At Wise Owls, our early years practitioners ensure all children are meeting their personal developmental goals, and achieving the highest standard of learning available. Every key person develops an in-depth understanding of their key children; their interests, their ability and their ongoing development, as well as upholding a positive relationship with both child and parent/carer.

This document outlines the aims, intent and learning goals of Wise Owls Childcare's curriculum. Wise Owls Childcare equips all practitioners with the necessary training and resources to deliver this curriculum and provide the best possible outcomes for the children in our care and their families.

EYES REGULATION



“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.”

— Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage



Our Curriculum

The Wise Owls Childcare Curriculum is designed to meet the needs of children aged 8 weeks - 5 years and covers all seven areas of learning as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS).

Our early years practitioners plan and deliver a rich curriculum that aims to meet the needs of all children,

This document outlines what we want children to learn in their time with Wise Owls Childcare. It shares our curriculum aims, our intent and how all seven areas of learning are met in our every day planning and activities, with a particular focus on how we promote these through outdoor learning.

Wise Owls Childcare practitioners will use this framework to plan their daily activities and monitor every child's progress against the EYFS framework following a play-based approach.

Curriculum Vision

Our vision for Wise Owls children is that when they are ready to leave us and go on to school - they have grown into independent, resilient, imaginative, kind and empathetic individuals that have the confidence and curiosity to spread their wings and grow.





Our Curriculum Values

We believe that children learn best through play and we prioritise learning in the great outdoors every day.

At Wise Owls Childcare, we believe that children learn best when they're having fun, with engaging and stimulating activities, and we have a strong belief that learning in the great outdoors benefits the health & wellbeing of both children and childcare practitioners.

We nurture every child's individuality and we make it our business to understand each child; their needs and their interests.

We believe in the countless benefits of outdoor play and the positive impact it can have on a child's understanding of and respect for the world around them.

Our ethos is to encourage all of our children to learn outside in a safe, stimulating and happy environment so they will spread their wings and grow.





WE VALUE THE

Power of outdoor learning

We aim to give children at least 180 minutes of outdoor activity per day (including structured and free play).

The benefits and possibilities with outdoor play are endless. At Wise Owls we believe it is essential that all young children have frequent and regular opportunities to explore and learn in an outdoor environment. Outdoor learning is an integral part of how we learn at Wise Owls, and is enjoyed through all four seasons.

By promoting good health and regular physical activity, we will positively contribute to early brain development and learning. We will actively promote effective communication skills including language, body language and non-verbal communication, e.g. expressions, during outdoor activities.

By creating games and providing opportunities for play outdoors, we will support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility.

Through outdoor play we will support every child's problem-solving skills and nurture their creativity, as well as provide rich opportunities for their developing imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.



WE PRIORITISE

The importance of caring for our planet

It is our aspiration to empower and motivate young people to understand their impact on the environment and how they can take care of and respect the world they live in.

We aim to teach children how to care for the environment by embedding good practice into nursery life.

We commit to...

- Learning from the world around us and how to take care of nature and wildlife.
- Teaching and encouraging children to reduce, reuse and recycle and giving children tasks, like helping to classify our recyclables.
- Finding opportunities to discuss ways in which we can take good care of our environment through using environmentally friendly practices and processes in our daily lives.

How we encourage learning at Wise Owls

Fostering a sense of belonging

Nurturing individuality

Learning for life

Supporting secure attachments

Tuning in to each unique child

Teaching through experience

Prioritising each child's feelings of safety & security through:

Bespoke care that builds a secure bond between each child and our team;

Sharing decision-making, using empathy with consequences;

Working in partnership with parents and carers, ensuring clear communication and giving them the opportunity to contribute to the whole of their child's journey at Wise Owls.

Start with what a child knows & can do on entry.

Provide provocations & enhancement in response to children's learning styles & interests.

Accurate observation & assessment.

Teach through guided learning, facilitation, scaffolding, modelling.

Supporting home learning with a particular focus on communication & literacy and enhancement of their personal and emotional development.

Enhancing the self-concept of children to become more secure about who they are.

Freedom to explore in wide open spaces.

Space to build strength and physical ability by crawling, walking, running, jumping, climbing.

Opportunities for children to care for their environment and resources - inside (cleaning, food prep, washing up) and outside (recycling, taking care of plants, trees and animals)

Opportunities for self-care - inside (good oral health & personal hygiene) and outside (children exploring their personal boundaries)

Taking care of others (supporting, mentoring & role modelling)



How we encourage learning at Wise Owls

Open-ended resources

Sensory stimulation

Art inspired creativity

Supporting secure attachments

Creativity is a process not a product.
Learning happens through the process.

Literacy

Resources in continuous provision that support concentration, engagement & curiosity, including an abundance of bricks, small world & materials that support creativity.

Provocation including loose parts.

Using natural resources that support physical development, health & wellbeing, independence, creativity and communication, such as mud kitchens, water play, climbing trees/logs, stepping logs, planting vegetables

Children are given opportunities to challenge themselves

Hands on learning.

Sensory rich experiences such as touching grass, listening to planes flying over the garden, smelling flowers & freshly cut grass, listening to the sounds of wildlife and nature.

Use of light & shadow.

Outdoor play in all weather to experience the changing seasons first hand.

Caring for our allotment, planting, watering and tending to vegetables and flowers

Daily adult led activities.

Music, song & dance.

Arts, crafts & messy play.

Nature inspired creativity; using natural materials, painting & drawing inspired by the natural world, making mud pies, building sandcastles, snowmen and dens.

Book of the month & Library

Storytelling

Poetry, rhythm & rhyme

Puppets

Bump into books

Discussing the world around us; different trees, leaves, weather, animals, bugs.

Encourage children to listen to the sounds of nature and evoke stories of experiences.





Curriculum Aims



DEVELOPING FULL POTENTIAL

To work alongside parents/carers in the provision for their child's individual needs to enable us to help the child to develop their full potential.



OFFERING AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

To offer enriching experiences and activities in an encouraging and secure environment, that allow children to constantly learn and to be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.



Curriculum Intent

Every moment is an opportunity for learning.

All children will be made to feel welcome, included and celebrated.

We will provide a safe, healthy and stimulating environment.

We will put the children's interests at the heart of our planning.

We will nurture children's individuality and prepare them with essential life skills such as sharing, problem-solving, socialising, the art of conversation and caring for others.

Our high-quality early education and care is inclusive. Children's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are identified quickly and all children promptly receive any extra help they need, so they can progress well in their learning.

Children will be cared for by passionate, nurturing and well-trained staff who always engage in a positive way with the children.





SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Our settings are all inclusive and we provide a positive, safe and welcoming environment. The setting is committed to working alongside parents in the provision for their child's individual needs to enable us to help the child to develop their full potential.

All children have the right to a broad and well-balanced learning environment. At all times we will work in partnership with parents and outside agencies in order to meet children's individual needs and practitioners will seek advice, support and training where required. We have a SENCO in place to support and embed our policy and procedure.

Progress made by all children will be assessed against the EYFS Framework and other relevant early years frameworks, such as Stages of Speech & Language Development. If any additional learning needs are identified, practitioners may introduce an IEP (Individual Education Plan) in accordance with our Special Education Needs Policy. This plan includes Targets, Observations, Resources, Review and Next Steps and will be used as the basis for the goals and objectives set for a child.



WISE OWLS CHILDCARE

LEARNING JOURNEY 0-12 MONTHS

Reaching for, touching & grabbing grass/leaves and other natural resources **helps** with fine motor skills and the muscles needed later when writing/drawing.



Stacking toys, sorting pebbles or finding natural resources, fruit, flowers etc. to **encourage** cognitive skills



Giving opportunities to 'cruise' to **promote** physical strength and fitness.



Providing sand and water play to **develop** tactile senses and develop hand eye coordination.



Pointing and looking at things in the sky, trees, fields, allotment to **encourage** curiosity and **develop** communication skills



Assisted walks and outdoor experiences to **explore** sounds and sights



Rolling, and playing to **build** physical strength in child's neck and back



Building skills for head control, along with **development** of back, neck and tummy muscles will help your baby sit up



Ensuring at least 30 minutes of tummy time spread throughout the day to **build** muscles needed for sitting.



Crawling & climbing to **support** healthy growth, coordination and muscle strength



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LEARNING JOURNEY 12-24 MONTHS

Crawling & climbing to **support** healthy growth, coordination and muscle strength and help improve balance



Encouraging running and jumping to **promote** fitness, for fun and to build muscle strength



Jumping in muddy puddles to **encourage** a physical workout and to help balance



Using slides and tunnels to **build** courage, develop self confidence and increase the muscle strength needed for climbing and walking.



Playing with adults to **stimulate conversation** and follow instructions



Sorting and weighing activities using natural materials to **promote** counting and measurement, as well as using language to describe these things



Sensory play using natural resources such as mud, leaves etc. **promotes** creativity and imagination, and **helps** children make sense of the world around them



Playing with others to **encourage** sharing through positive reinforcement and reward



Encouraging children to find objects in the outdoors using all of their senses.



WISE OWLS CHILDCARE

LEARNING JOURNEY 2-3 YEARS

Encouraging pretend play to **foster** creativity and build vocabulary



Sorting and weighing activities using natural materials to **promote** counting and measurement, as well as using language to describe these things



Being outdoors offers many opportunities for skills like jumping and climbing to **strengthen** muscles and develop coordination



Playing outdoor games including throwing and catching to **improve** coordination



Building curiosity through scavenger hunts and adventure trails to **encourage** new language use



Mark making with sticks, chalk etc. to develop writing skills and new ways to communicate



Encouraging social interaction by imitating real life scenarios, i.e. baking mud pies, to **extend** communication skills



Encouraging running and jumping to **promote** fitness, for fun and to build muscle strength



Bumping into books with books that **explore** the world around us and encourage children to use simple sentences to describe what they see



Finding opportunities for climbing and balancing to **develop** balance and coordination



WISE OWLS CHILDCARE

LEARNING JOURNEY 3-5 YEARS

Providing opportunities for social interaction to **develop** language skills & learning to share



Encourage maths skills with pouring, measuring using different materials and **talk** about weight and volume

Upcycling by making, drawing, junk modelling, painting using existing natural resources to **encourage** creativity and resourcefulness



Bumping into books with books that **explore** the world around us and encourage children to use simple sentences to describe what they see



Using play equipment to **teach** children to wait their turn and help others.



Discussing what we find outdoors to **extend** language skills and vocabulary



Mark making with sticks, chalk etc. to **develop** writing skills and new ways to communicate

Encouraging adventure with muddy puddles; jumping, running through and feeling the resistance of mud to **develop** large muscles and a sense of balance



Sensory activities including finding, feeling, smelling flowers to **stimulate** child-child and adult-child discussions



Pretend play **promotes** creativity and extends language and communication



Counting conkers and other natural resources to practise math skills



AT THE END OF THE WISE OWLS JOURNEY

CHILDREN WILL SPREAD THEIR WINGS AND GROW

1. YOU ARE YOU

- Developed a sense of self
- Built self-confidence and self-concept
- Believe that your potential is limitless
- independent and resilient - know how to put your coat and shoes on, and how to pour a drink.

2. CONFIDENT COMMUNICATOR

- Able to express yourself
- Have a love of reading
- Able to use expressive language to communicate your feelings and ideas
- Ability to listen to others
- Able to communicate your age and name
- Able to ask for help

3. IT'S YOUR WORLD

- Understand how you can take care of the world around you
- Have experienced being part of the local and wider community
- Embrace difference & celebrate diversity
- Be kind to yourself and others
- Have a confident voice

4. BE HEALTHY & CONTENT

- Developed healthy habits including food choices and oral health
- Have a love of the outdoors
- Know how to keep yourself safe even when you are taking risks

5. BE CURIOUS

- Have a healthy sense of wonder and imagination
- Ask questions – be inquisitive
- Learn to solve problems
- Willing to try new things

Curriculum Impact

In order to measure how effectively we are meeting the needs of each child, we spend time looking at and evaluating how children are learning.

This is achieved through talking to children, looking at their work, observing their learning experiences and undertaking regular observational assessments.

We use this information to plan learning experiences and next steps so that knowledge and skills are developed cumulatively.

Evidence of children's learning includes observations, work samples, photographs and contributions from parents and these are all kept in a digital 'learning journal' that is shared with parents through ParentZone throughout the year.

