

Care, Learning and Play

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of OSCA 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.

OSCA will provide a well-planned and organised play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. Children are encouraged to be confident and independent, and every effort is made to develop their self-esteem and learning through play.

The programme of activities is developed following children's interests, to allow children to build on their natural curiosity, develop their language and mathematical thinking, use their imagination and develop positive social relationships. The setting recognises and takes into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children. At all times, the setting will recognise a child's individuality, effort and achievement.

Wherever appropriate, children will be involved in the process of planning activities so that the programme reflects their opinions, and so that children feel some ownership over their setting. Such processes will be governed by the procedures set out in the Involving and Consulting Children policy.

Please Note: The Learning and Development, and assessment requirements set out in the EYFS Statutory Framework do not apply to Out of School settings

Staffing

Staffing arrangements will provide opportunities for:

- Reflection on practice.
- The realisation that working with children is a complex, challenging and demanding task and that often there are no easy answers.
- Learning as a shared process; children learn most effectively when, with the support of a knowledgeable and trusted adult, they are actively involved and interested.

Staff will display flexible styles of leadership and respond appropriately to children according to their age, understanding and needs.

Staff will support, recognise and promote achievements by all children.

The setting will provide children with age-appropriate equipment and resources appropriate to their interests, according to the provisions of the Equipment policy.

Children will be offered access to outdoor play every day, subject to weather conditions.

No child will ever be left unsupervised during activities at the setting.

The programme of activities will be displayed in a place that is accessible to all children and to their parents/carers.

Outdoor play

Outdoor play opportunities are included in planning and offer opportunities for all areas of learning including imaginative play, construction, horticultural play, scientific and environmental and quiet play. Children can flow freely between indoors and outdoors, and are able to choose where they prefer to be.

We encourage children to take an active part and interest in their external surroundings by observing the seasons and growing cycle.

Outdoor play promotes:

Physical skills in gross motor movement

Opportunities for co-operation, language development and independence

Vital mathematical, scientific and creative exploration

All children will be given the opportunity to play outside in all weathers. Parents are asked to provide suitable outdoor wear.

When all the children are outside staff position themselves to ensure that all children are adequately supervised and supported, and learning opportunities extended.

A full range of experiences are provided outside to ensure that children are appropriately challenged