

Vision (what we want to achieve)

We are proud to be part of a childcare company that continues to grow but that never loses sight of the importance of the safe, happy and learning child in the world.

Mission (what, who and how we will achieve our vision)

To provide environments in which children feel safe, secure and happy enough to learn and develop at their own pace by ensuring our staff are trained, motivated and valued.

Core Values (how we as a staff team will behave during the process of achieving our vision)

Honest	Passionate
Selfless	Respectful
Professional	Committed
Proactive	

In addition, our staff adhere to our company **Code of Conduct Policy**.

Aims (how we deliver best practice)

- We aim to provide a high quality foundation of care for all the children attending. The children's needs always come first.
- Our belief is that children fare best when they feel safe and secure. We consider it our responsibility to ensure that all of the children are provided with love, affection and intellectual stimulation at all times in a safe and caring environment.
- We are aware of the need to have good working relationships with parents so that we can work together for the good of the child.
- In order to achieve these aims the Nursery believes that all staff working within the Nursery follows these ideals:
 - Be friendly and approachable
 - Be positive and respectful of children from all backgrounds and abilities
 - Give reassurance, encouragement and praise
 - Value children and treat them as individuals
 - Encourage children to explore and try out new activities

Our Ethos (our characteristic spirit that manifests in our attitudes and aspirations)

The Curiosity Approach

Our nurseries are currently working towards 'The Curiosity Approach' accreditation creating welcoming play spaces and learning opportunities for children growing up in an ever-changing world.

What is 'The Curiosity Approach?'

The Curiosity Approach is about using children's natural curiosity to go back to basics with the use of wooden resources, ordinary household items and bric-a-brac 'theCuriosityApproach.com' Creating an environment to inspire children to be inquisitive and creative and by enhancing our 'Home from Home' environment we are able to provide further opportunities for developing;

- Independent thinking
- Stronger non-verbal communication
- Language and verbal communication
- Problem solving
- Lifelong learners

This is a modern-day approach that fits perfectly in current changing technological times. Bringing curiosity, awe and wonder into early childhood & creating the 'thinkers & doers' of the future.

Some of the features of the Curiosity Approach are:

- Authentic natural resources, which offers the children opportunities for creativity and imagination
- Allows the children to be in an environment which promotes inquisitive and curious minds
- Curiosity is the desire to learn and the eagerness to explore
- Calm and neutral tones throughout nursery
- Homely welcoming room with cosy places for the children to play
- The use of everyday objects such as photo frames, curtain rings and blankets
- Loose parts, these are items that can be used in various ways and have no pre designed outcome, allowing the children to be creative, critical thinkers and problem solvers

All of which allows us to teach the children ***how to think not what to think.***

Forest School

Forest School is an inspirational process, which offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

In our settings it is our aim to implement the forest school style of teaching to encourage the children to use the natural resources around them and explore nature.

Aims and Ethos of the Nursery

We give the children the freedom to use their imaginations with no time limit and no specific end result. Forest school gives the children the opportunity to create their own games and ideas and share them with their peers. Each session can change depending of what the children are interested in that day. We aim to make children more resilient to the outdoor environment and teach them skills that will help them throughout life. Forest schools are carried out in all weathers except if dangerous and unsafe for the children such as ice or lightning. There are specific areas in which we carry out forest school session they are natural and unspoilt.

Forest schools give the children the opportunity to learn skills that could help them such as building fires, erecting temporary shelters and wood calving in a safe environment. We carry 'risk benefits' as apposed to risk assessments. This ensures the children get the most from the experience, but safely.

Related policies: Code of Conduct Policy

This policy was adopted by: Acre Wood Day Nursery	Date: 20 th July 2020
To be reviewed: July 2021	Signed: Karen Barnes