**Parental Involvement Policy**

Involvement (engagement & support)
It is our hope at Little Pandas Nursery to work in partnership with the parents/guardians for the benefit of their child. We encourage parental/guardian support and hope that they may be able to participate in the life of the Nursery. As we slowly move away from the Covid pandemic, we are happy to re-introduce parents into our nursery building to participate in parental involvement.

The nursery aims to provide the following:

Keeping parents informed
-WhatsApp messaging services to keep parents involved and up to date with any new information
-Day to day discussions/hand over information
-Regular summative assessments/Pre-Birth to Three development tracker
-Email updates on nursery life and updates to operational procedures
-Tours for families to view the nursery

Parent and Keyworker meetings
-Parents are kept regularly informed through daily discussions with their keyworker/staff. Please feel free to speak to your keyworker at any time.

Stay and Play
We have invited all parents along to our Stay and Play sessions. This will give you the opportunity to see how you child spends their day at little pandas.

Parent and Keyworker meetings
During parent/keyworker meetings parents are encouraged to discuss their child's development/achievements and next steps. Keyworkers will ask parents to participate in these meetings and inform the staff of any changes to their child’s care plans. These are held throughout the year to keep parents up to date about nursery life. It also gives Parents a chance to raise any concerns or suggestions on ways to improve the nursery as well as raise areas of positive impacts.
Please note these are not key worker meetings and specific children's development will not be discussed. However, if you feel you would like to discuss your child's development within the nursery in more detail, this can be arranged.

Planning
Parents are encouraged to view our planning boards and Facebook to keep up to date of planning and current learning. We will also keep you informed via newsletters, texts, email, Facebook and wall displays.

Home-links
Parent's support is encouraged when we send resources home. Having discussions with your child about these resources, e.g. Library books, Story bags, Healthy living initiatives, promotes strong home links. We also ask that these be returned to the nursery in good order, so they can be enjoyed by everyone.

Wider achievements
Children love feeling a sense of achievement and sharing their news with their friends and staff. We encourage parents to tell us about their child's wider achievements so that we can celebrate them within the nursery. Small steps matter as much as big ones, and all can be celebrated, e.g. trying a new food; starting swimming; sleeping in their own bed all night; good behaviour, the list is endless. It is a great way of building children's confidence and for the staff to get to know the children and families better.

Children's Learning
We believe the 'curriculum' is the sum total of young children's experiences, everything that they say, do, feel, smell, touch, hear, or taste.
The focus of our curriculum delivery is helping children to make sense of the world around them by:
•       Using their senses to explore and discover
•       Relating new experiences to previous learning

* Sharing these experiences with others

We cover a wide range of experiential learning in the two years children are present within the nursery. Within these experiences children can begin to discover and learn about the world around them; cultures, weather, festivals, natural wonders, animals, people, places, environment, families, electricity, seasons, the list is endless. What we endeavour to achieve through this variety of subjects, is broad general education, encompassing all of the learning outcomes within the eight subject areas. We understand that children will progress at different rates, so careful planning is needed in order to engage and motivate them.

**How can I help my child at home?**

Throughout your child's time in Nursery, it is hoped that you will continue to take on the role of your child's Primary Educator. As soon as your child comes into the world, you are preparing them for the life they have ahead of them. Many of the skills required are not learned automatically and children need encouragement and practice to acquire them. As a parent you can work alongside Nursery staff to help your child prepare for the formal learning of school.
 Talking and Listening
-Children need lots of encouragement and practice to LISTEN as well as TALK!
         - Talk to your child, and listen to them when they are talking to you
         - Name objects when you show them to your child
        - Talk to your child about colours and numbers in the World around them
         - Rhythm is important. Use words of varying length and perhaps play clapping games to "clap" words (e.g. NUR-SER-Y)
         - Talk about what you can hear when you are out and about with your child or in the home

* Play silly rhyming games e.g. make up silly names for one another e.g. maddy daddy,
Hanna banana etc
* Play memory games

Moving and doing
         - Clapping helps the hearing and memory. Let your child copy simple clapping rhythms

* Play lots of movement games such as Simon Says
* Encourage games which use positional language such as on top of, underneath, next to, beside as these are words which children can often confuse
* Dancing helps rhythm
* Hand Control

Encourage the muscles that will eventually allow your child to hold a pencil by allowing your child to participate in activities such as:

* Playing with water, sand and playdough
* writing or drawing with a variety of pencils, pens and crayons
* Supervised cutting activities with scissors
* Gluing and other craft ideas
* Threading beads, making jigsaws, using peg patterns and other games which use counters and dice

Help with Reading

* Encourage positive reading experiences by setting aside special times for the purpose.
* Create cosy reading situations where you will not be interrupted or distracted
* Talk about the sounds of words — what does apple start with? Can you hear what cat ends   with? Use the sounds of the letters as opposed to the letter names (e.g. the letter a is always pronounced aah (as in apple) not ai (as in chair) Let your child choose books that he/she wants to read
* Talk about the front cover, what might happen in the story?
* Use books with flaps
* Continue to read aloud to your child, providing a good model, long after your child learns to read

Social Skills

* Play games with your child which encourage turn taking and sharing
* Encourage your child to listen to and carry out simple instructions
* Encourage your child to become more independent by doing simple tasks by themselves (even if it takes longer to get the job done!) such as putting their own shoes and coat, buttering their own toast, tidying their toys away etc
* Encourage your child to play and interact with other children

Throughout your child's time at nursery, you will be invited to attend a variety of events which will give you more ideas about helping your child at home. In the meantime, please feel free to speak to your child's keyworker if you feel that you need more help with suitable activities at home.

***Created by:*** *Management* ***Created on:*** *9th June 2022*