

Role of the Key Person

Children thrive from a base of loving and secure relationships. This is primarily provided by a child's parents/carers but can also be provided by a key person at nursery. Early Years Practitioners at St Bernard's Nursery will consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child across the seven areas of learning and development.

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Practitioners will also respond 'In the Moment' to progress children's learning.

Play is an essential part of children's learning and development. It enables them to build their confidence as they learn to explore, think about and solve problems and socialize with others. Practitioners respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their learning and development through warm, positive interaction.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

When planning and guiding activities practitioners will reflect upon the different ways that children learn and ensure they utilise this within their practice.

The three Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

Playing and Exploring

Children investigate, engage in new experiences, and 'have a go'

Active Learning

Children are motivated and able to concentrate for a period of time. They keep on trying when challenges occur and celebrate their achievements.

Creating and Thinking Critically

Children have and develop their own ideas, they make links between ideas and develop strategies for completing tasks.

Once starting at St Bernard's Nursery, each child is allocated a key worker. Their keyworker will help your child to feel safe and secure in a new, unfamiliar environment and cater for their individual needs. The key person will become a familiar figure who is accessible and available as a point of contact for parents. They will build a relationship with the parents/carers and support them in guiding their child's development at home.

On or before your child's first session at St Bernard's Nursery the key person will complete an all about me form with parents/carers. This will enable the key person to start building a relationship with the family.

Assessment

Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners to recognize children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities to support. Ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process. It involves practitioners observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations. In their interactions with children, practitioners respond to their own day-to-day observations about children's progress and observations that parents and carers share.

When your child starts in Ducklings, their key person will complete a baseline assessment and on a termly basis. During the final Pre-School term, your child's key person will complete a transition document for their new reception teacher. St Bernard's Nursery use Tapestry Online Learning Journal to track children's learning and development and to share their achievements with parents and carers.