

CURRICULAR AND EXTRA CURRICULAR PROVISION

Young children need to be actively involved in their learning and the nursery curriculum available to them should arouse their curiosity and provide them with opportunities to initiate and choose activities. Learning experiences should encourage experimentation, problem solving, questioning and discovery.

Ballyclare Nursery School aims to provide a balanced programme of learning experiences across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum which will both reinforce and complement one another, so that skills children acquire in one area can equally be used in another so helping to boost their understanding, competence and confidence.

It is vital that children are able to form sound, happy relationships with both their peers and the adults around them. The extension of their social and emotional development will therefore be an important part of our work with them. We feel it is vital that children have a good positive self-image, are well motivated from within, experience a sense of achievement and are able to adequately express their feelings and anxieties.



Children's time at Nursery will give them the opportunity to learn independently and confidently within a school environment and will encourage them to develop an appreciation of the needs of others around them.



Active participation in carefully considered play situations will help stimulate their curiosity and imagination, extend their concentration, observation and reasoning skills while all the time building on the early maths and science concepts they are beginning to acquire.



Well planned physical play activities, both indoor and outdoor, will help them explore their body movements with enjoyment, encouraging good co-ordination, spatial awareness and manipulative skills.



Through active participation in their play, Nursery staff will encourage children to express their ideas confidently and develop the listening skills so vital to their language development. Musical experiences will also help to reinforce listening skills by working with sound, pitch and rhythmic patterns.

OUTDOOR PLAY

This will be accessible to the children when weather conditions allow. The outdoor area will be prepared before the children arrive (weather permitting) and all equipment used will be carefully positioned, maintained and checked for safety and climbing apparatus will be placed on appropriate safety surfacing and supervised by a member of staff. Children will be very aware of the safety rules which will be strictly enforced at all times. The verandah area will be available to children on rare days when full outdoor play is impossible.

The range of activities available will challenge the children to maintain their interest and will maintain progression and monthly plans will be reviewed constantly to check that the needs of all children are being met. In good weather as many indoor activities as possible will be brought outside.



Concentration, perseverance and imagination will be encouraged using materials which children can manipulate, change and combine to initiate role play and fantasy play.



Our aim is to give the children maximum space and opportunities to expand energy in an acceptable way.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

This year, as a result of extended schools funding, we have been able to provide an extended school day which operates immediately before the morning session from 8.30 a.m. and after the afternoon session to 3.30 p.m..

Extended schools funding has also allowed us the freedom to plan a garden project, involving a trip to a local garden nursery, where the children will engage in a planting activity which will be incorporated into our own school garden. There will also be a session for parents at the garden nursery. The garden project will hopefully be rounded off by trips to Greenmount Agricultural College for children, parents and staff.

