

**Welcome to Struthers Nursery. We are delighted to have you with us!**

**Here are some frequently asked questions and some tips for getting started with us! We hope you find them helpful.**



# How will I know how my child is doing?

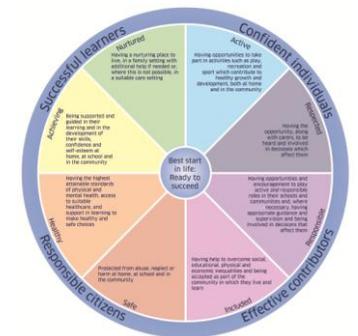
In nursery staff will make non intrusive observations of your child's progress and development - recorded in individual profiles. They will then discuss these with you and complete a Care Plan at several points throughout the year. With your input they will set appropriate next steps (nursery and/or home) for your child. At the heart of these observations, and of everything we do in nursery are GIRFEC and SHANARRI:

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the national approach to improving outcomes through public services that support the wellbeing of children and young people. Based on children's and young people's rights, it supports children, young people and their parents to work in partnership with the services that can help them.

Wellbeing is at the heart of GIRFEC and a SHANARRI wheel has been created which highlights 'eight indicators of wellbeing' every child needs to experience in order to reach their potential. In the nursery it is our duty to support your child to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included. These indicators are therefore used when taking observations of your child and in planning their next steps. You will see them in both your child's profile and careplans.

For more info visit <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/well-being>

In addition to this we hold parents evenings twice a year, share updates on edmodo, compile a scrapbook of your child's work - available as you enter the nursery and staff will always readily discuss achievements/concerns as necessary at pick up/drop off.



## How will I be involved in my child's experience?

At Struthers we believe carers are their children's first teacher. We endeavour to involve you as much as possible in your child's nursery experience through the following:

- We have an open door policy and you are welcome to approach at any point with concerns and/or questions.
- Staff update carers upon pick up/drop off of any exciting achievements and/or concerns.
- Each child has an individual e-profile accessible on our i-pads. These will be discussed at parents evenings and sent home at the end of the year. You can request to view these at any point.
- We use edmodo to share photos and updates of nursery life - ask inside to join.
- There is a weekly bulletin sharing current learning, important upcoming dates and tips to support at home.
- Our 'Learning' bulletin board shares current learning and offers you the opportunity to contribute to this.
- Our 'Floorbook' (displayed below the learning bulletin board when not in use) shows children's thoughts and ideas.
- We hold monthly Stay n Play dates where you will be invited to take part in a range of activities with your child.
- We host PEEP classes which support developing important early skills with your child.
- You will be welcomed on trips and outings with us.
- We are always keen to have you in the nursery if you have any skills or experiences to offer or simply to share exciting news e.g. new additions to the family!

## What does my child do all day?

Our session starts with a 'soft start'. Your child will come in, sign their name, pop their snack card on the fridge and choose an activity. We have an activity selector on our Interactive whiteboard which can help inform their choices but it has been quite temperamental and we are working on improving this. Once all children have arrived we call a 'Together Time' at together time we welcome each child individually, share any exciting news and talk about our learning and activities on offer. Children are then free to choose activities for the majority of the session. When weather allows we open our garden doors and children have free flow access throughout the session.

We provide a range of activities, most are self select to promote independence but some will be planned by staff to develop key skills such as fine and gross motor, early literacy and numeracy and social development. Children can request games and activities on our computers, i-pads and whiteboards, music to listen to, or activities they have had before. We often ask our children what they would like to learn about and staff then plan activities around these interests.

Throughout the week we will visit the gym, the 'big' playground and the library. Sometimes we go on outings to the local community, further afield and attend whole school assemblies. You will always be informed in advance of these events.

During and towards the end of the session your child may participate in a small group activity - this may be with their key worker group, a randomly selected group or with children of their age (ante-pre/pre). Small groups provide more 1-1 interaction and quiet focussed time. Working with a variety of groups supports your child to develop a variety of friendships in the nursery.

At the end of the session we have another together time to review the session and also sing rhymes or share a story. Children then go back to their 'home tables' to be collected.

## Why are there old pots and pans/household items/guttering/'rubbish' in my child's nursery?

As a parent you will know children are fascinated with 'real' items. You may buy them plastic keys as a baby or a toy phone but will surely have experienced them constantly reaching for the real thing! We know some items are not designed for young children but many simple household items provide wonderful play experiences for young children and allow them to discover and problem solve using real tools. We therefore use lots of everyday items to support and extend learning in our nursery. Sometimes these are used for purpose e.g. pots and pans in a home role play corner, wood and bricks in the construction area, and other times they are left for the child to explore e.g. kitchen tools in the sand, pots and pans to be used as instruments etc. These items are always checked by staff before being set out and children are always closely supervised when using these items. Any possible risks, and how to minimise these, are also discussed with children. Developing a sense of risk in young children is important for their development and in becoming confident, independent individuals. We therefore encourage them to 'try out' new experiences in a safe and controlled way. Of course accidents do happen and as a parent you will know these can happen any place at any time and often in the most unexpected of situations. We minimise the risk of these by supervising children and continually informing them of any potential risks. We therefore ask you to appreciate the learning opportunities using real tools and items offer our children and support us to continue to provide these opportunities.



We also try to use more natural materials and softer colours throughout the playroom and on our displays. This not only helps any created work stand out but also creates a calm, relaxed environment for the children and minimises any sensory distress some children may experience from busy and bright colours. The different textures and materials used create a stimulating sensory experience for the children and encourage them to explore and ask questions.

## Quick Tips for New Parents!

Welcome to Struthers, we are delighted to have you! Here are some quick tips for getting started:

- Your child will be assigned a 'Key Worker' this person will be responsible for updating you on your child's progress and is your go to for any questions or concerns. Although you are also always welcome to approach the Nursery Teacher, currently Miss Neil, at any point! ([Kirsty.neil@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.neil@south-ayrshire.gov.uk))
- You must sign your child in and out of nursery each day in our sign in books. 'Passwords' are arranged for new carers that we haven't yet met.
- Your child has their own coat peg and 'snack card' which they will post on the fridge after they 'sign' their name upon entering the nursery.
- We ask for a donation of £1.50 a week to supply healthy snacks for your child - pop it in the piggy bank inside.
- We ask that you bring in a pair of gym shoes and wellington boots to be kept in nursery to ensure these are always accessible for gym and outdoor play.
- Ask to join edmodo - our online site for sharing info and updates!
- ASK! We are always happy to help and wouldn't want you to worry about anything - please ask, ask ask!



## We are on edmodo!

edmodo is a safe, online platform where we can share nursery news, updates and photos of the children. You can add comments and any of your own pictures of home learning or news. We would love you to join us! If you are not already on and would like to join please ask a member of staff.

