June 2018

Your Monthly Parent Guide To...

Your Child’s Learning At Nursery

Produced by:-

Larkhall Children’s Centre

*Where learning is fun!*
Our Planning

Our planning is responsive and progressive, meaning that children can engage in a range of meaningful independent play and adult led experiences during the free-flow of each nursery session. Each professional plans on a daily basis taking into account the children’s interests, curricular outcomes and individual needs. This means we do not have a ‘topic’ or a ‘theme’. We aim to develop inquiry learning, curiosity, communication and creativity through play. Children have access to the whole curriculum throughout the nursery, both indoors and outdoors and also participate in planned small group experiences with key workers on a regular basis.

We want our planning to reflect experiences and interests outwith nursery too. Should anyone have any learning ideas for us to continue with or develop within nursery, please contact us. If your children has a key interest we can develop or carry on learning from home, tell us and we can incorporate it into our plan.

We also want to celebrate achievements in learning and development. Use the learning journals to share your child’s achievements and we will share them on our achievement wall. These achievements can also be used to develop our planning.

Our ‘weekly plan’ is available to view. On our weekly plan, we list key outcomes and skills which we are aiming to develop in literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. We also list ideas and interests which we are trying to develop across the curriculum and with all children. Our weekly plan also shows the focus for citizenship (through MYSELF), festivals, special events and whole nursery learning.

June

- **MYSELF – I am hopeful about the future**

  Our MYSELF work will focus on worry, how to cope with worries and talking about worries.

June is a busy time. There is a focus on ‘transition’, which is for all children, not just the children moving on to school. We focus on worries, change and hopes for moving forward for all children, as change affects everyone. By concentrating on the positives for change and linking transition to other rhythms and patterns of life, we hope to encourage resilience in all of the children.

During the month of June we will paying close attention to Health and Wellbeing, in particular exercise, healthy foods, healthy lifestyles and being active. This will also allow us to look at energy in different forms through science and technology activities. We will continue to look at the changing weather and seasons and effects on the world around us. There will also be a focus on matching and sorting, as well as more complex uses of number for older children (time, number stories, estimation). In literacy, we will be continuing progression on imaginative storytelling, descriptive language and mark-making for a purpose.
**Fun Week**

During our fun week we will have a visit from ‘Kidnetiks’ and ‘Mini Zoo’. Along with these visits, there will be a baking/cooking day, face painting and transfers as well as some other little surprises. Normal session times apply and there will be no extra cost to parents and carers.

**Sports Day**

We are changing our sports day this year. Rather than have races, we are going to set up physical activity ‘stations’ for the children. Children will move round the stations in groups. There will be a medal presentation at the end of each session. There will be two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon. Parents and carers are welcome to come and observe at one of the sessions. Staff will hand out session times very soon. Sessions will be 10-11, 11-12, 2-3 & 3-4. If a session doesn’t suit, please talk to staff. Also, don’t worry if you can’t come, although everyone is more than welcome.

**Our Curricular work will involve your child in the following activities:**

- Building solar power models
- Sorting animals and other real objects by different criteria
- Working out healthy / unhealthy food and finding out why
- Creating stories from interesting photos and pictures

- If any parent of carer has any ideas to add or to develop our planning, please tell a member of staff OR write it down and hand it to us, or email the nursery office. We aim to be responsive to ideas developed by the children and that includes what children are interested in their home lives.

Please note that we are focusing on the ‘process’ of children doing arts/crafts and mark-making. The end product is only important in terms of the child being satisfied with their efforts.

**Early Literacy**

Many parents and carers have been enquiring about name writing, particularly before starting school. To clarify, we focus on having mark-making tools and equipment, interesting surfaces to write and draw upon in all areas of the nursery. By taking a holistic approach to literacy (reading, listening, sharing talk and stories) and by modelling writing and mark-making, we encourage the children to use mark-making within all aspects of their play. Having lots of environmental print (name stickers, names at pegs, names of dookits, signs, posters etc) is part of the process of encouraging children to be aware of shapes and sounds in the form of letters and words. Working on sounds, rhymes, rhythms of language also forms an important
part of the process. We don’t ‘force’ children to write in a formal sense but we support their interests and motivations. We encourage, but don’t make children write.

All children have different interests and motivations and develop at different rates. Physically writing is the last stage in a process of understanding sounds, realising the purpose of mark-making (to make lists, share information, record numbers etc) and recognising shapes, lines and symbols.

Primary one is the start of the formal process of putting together these ideas and developing writing through the school’s literacy strategy and writing programme. However, when children are motivated to ‘write’ we provide the support they need at the stage they require.

As always, if you require a chat or more information, just ask.

**Supplying materials**

- We are putting the call out again for loose parts / outdoor materials; we need more guttering, crates, rope, stones, rocks, buckets, barrels, pipes etc. Still looking!!

**Helping in the playroom / educational visit**

This would involve the following:

As always, any skills, talents or interests are always welcome in nursery. From reading stories to dancing, the children always appreciate new voices and faces to work with. Again, if anyone has an interesting job or hobby they would like to talk to the children about, we would be more than interested!

- Remember also to put any of your child’s achievements on to the learning journals, which we in turn can print and put on the achievement wall. There have been more added recently which is greatly appreciated. Don’t forget, you can comment on your child’s learning on the learning journals too. Use the nursery email if you want to add planning ideas!

- Remember to look at our page on the website – it has lots of useful links and the current planning.

- **Continued thanks to the parents who are running our numeracy/literacy bag scheme. We need more volunteers! Can anyone help with our bags? Contact a member of staff if you spare some time.**
Please remember to return bags on a Tuesday if possible. Can parents and carers make sure you take the bag from the correct peg and return it to the correct peg. Thanks! We have some bags still missing. Please check at home; if you have a bag or a piece from a bag please return them. This scheme relies on everyone taking care of the resources and returning them in good condition promptly. Thanks.

How can you help your child enjoy and get the most out of the nursery learning?

You could do the following at home:-

- Practicing graduation songs and words (thanks!!) Words have been given out to the children.
- Sorting out your child’s toys when tidying (colours, sizes, type, shape etc)
- Asking ‘what do you think will happen next?’ when reading stories
- Use descriptive language when eating, using objects…‘how does it feel?’ , ‘tell me about the taste’, ‘what does that sound like?’

Visit our webpage for links and updated weekly planning, as well as for other useful information…https://goo.gl/6Oo8B8