

Oaks Nursery

Free Flow Policy

At Oaks Nursery we strive to offer the children the best possible learning environment, ensuring that they have continuous access to both the indoor and outdoor environment. Free flow is important as children thrive best in an environment that supports and promotes their active learning and development. They require space both indoors and outdoors, where they can be active or quiet, and have opportunities to think and watch others. We believe the outdoor environment is a learning extension from the indoor environment; a totally holistic experience gives our children the freedom to choose activities and follow their interests. The nursery gardens are open all year around to ensure that the children experience all types of weather conditions and seasons.

Role of the Practitioner

- During each session, staff are deployed to specific areas of the room.
- Staff are expected to call for assistance if they feel they have more than their ratio of children.
- During free flow times, at least two areas will be open and in operation.
- To support children's confidence in themselves and their developing skills as they tackle new experiences.
- To observe children and plan new and exciting activities within their learning environment to reflect the child's interests
- To follow The Communication Friendly Spaces™ (CFS™) Approach and provide opportunities that focus on the role of the environment in supporting speaking and listening skills, emotional well-being, physical development and general engagement

Supervision of Children inside

- Staff will be vigilant as to the number of children within theirs and adjoining areas.
- Offer a range of experiences and resources which are regularly monitored and refreshed to keep them safe and stimulated.
- Children learn from adults so remember you need to be a good role-model for them.

Supervision of children outdoors

- Whilst free flow is in operation, the person on outdoor duty must be visible to all children and physically check all areas of garden thoroughly before closing the area.
- Within the garden there should be opportunities for a range of activities such as paint, growing plants, imaginative play, mark-making, looking at books, exploring with malleable materials, water and sand.
- Staff members need to be motivated and make sure ALL children are getting the most of their learning opportunities within the garden.
- Once inside, that member of staff must also do a headcount to again ensure all children are inside.

Adopted on (date): February 2012

Signed on behalf of The Oaks Day Nursery:

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Job title: Senior Supervisor