

Sunbeams Foundation Stage 1 Nursery Routine

Arrival

Children arrive each session/day and collect their little wooden name-tag hanging in reception, on a colour coded ribbon linked to their family groups; red, yellow, blue, green, orange and purple. This is handed to their key person, and is how we register the attendance each day. Staff are available at the beginning and end of each session/day, to talk with families.

Family group time (Planning)

This is a special time for children to sit with their key person and others in their group every day. Sometimes, staff plan little activities that enable them to check what children know, or maybe introduce something new, but the main focus of group time is about engaging children in conversation, promoting speaking and listening within a small, familiar group context. Children are also encouraged to plan their play – remembering what they did yesterday, thinking about what they want/need to do today and who they might like to work/play with. As time goes by, staff will expect children to think more deeply about their plans eg the resources they might need and whether or not they need to start by drawing a plan or writing a list. There will also be an expectation that children stick to that plan – within reason.

Main play session (Work Time)

Children have over an hour and half to play – indoors and outdoors, which we believe is plenty of time for them to become deeply engrossed and engaged in meaningful play. The adults are deployed throughout and will be noticing children in their learning spaces – what they are ‘doing very successfully’, what they can ‘nearly do’ and what they are ‘struggling to do’, but with help/input, might manage it. This informs our planning.

Small group time: This is to develop specific development eg Letters and Sounds, Mathematics, Fine Motor Skills, Music

Family group review time (Recall Time)

Family groups reconvene to talk about what children have been doing and this is where we introduce reflection and evaluation. Children are asked about their play and work and encouraged to share it with the group. Over time, we see children analysing their own learning and deciding what they need to do next and why. This is powerful learning.

Tidy up time

Tidying up is an adult concept and quite tricky for our youngest learners. However, we believe it teaches children respect and responsibility for the things they use and play with. It is time consuming, especially in the beginning, but it is another life skill we want our children to learn, no matter how brief the session lasts. We talk to the children about the Nursery being 'our house' and how important it is to take care of everything – the pets, plants, resources, equipment and each other.

Story and home time

We organise them into differentiated story groups. Staff lead a group for half a term and carefully plan the stories, so that children know a handful of stories very well and others quite well. We call it our 'again and again' books. We conclude our time together with a home time song.

Snack time

This happens during Work time and is a Rolling snack. The children choose when to come to the snack area. Near the end of snack time, we make sure those children who haven't chosen to come to the Snack area, do so.

Snack is fruit/vegetables and milk/water. Each Friday, we make our snack.

Children are encouraged to eat but we do not force it as long as they have a drink.