

## OUTDOOR PLAY

We have three main areas to play and explore. There is a grassed area for ball games and circle games. A soft area for climbing frames and a patio surface for bikes and trikes. The children have the opportunity to go outside throughout the day and we provide waterproof jackets and trousers for when it is wet and muddy so that they can explore the garden for themselves—however there is always a member of staff close by. We also experiment with growing herbs, vegetables and flowers around the garden and in tubs. We have been known to produce our own tomatoes!



## Practices for the 3-5 years

### Introduction

*It was decided in our staff training in July 2000 that a hand book should be written for our parents to try to explain our aims and objectives. As you can imagine things change all the time but we know there is still a need to give you as much information as possible. All of our educational plans are available for you to see in the 3-5 room, or ask a member of 3-5 staff. The yearly and weekly plans can not describe all the things that we do with the children on a daily basis, therefore this booklet should give a rough guide to what goes on inside the room.*

### **3-5 Room**

**MERRYVALE NURSERY LTD**

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# FAMILY GROUPS

Each child when they move into the 3-5 room will be placed into a group—blue, green or red—depending on their age. Blue group being the pre-school children and red group being the youngest children. Each group has a member of staff, of who is responsible for writing reports, and completing assessments. Our family groups get together at least once a day, whether it be for juice, a short activity or to eat dinner. These times together help the children to build good relationships with their carer and the other children in their group..

## **DAILY ROUTINE**

Our daily routine varies each day depending on numerous things such as the weather or the mood of the children but here is a rough guide!

7.30– 8.30	Arrive at nursery
8.30–9.00	Breakfast
9.00–9.20	Circle/discussion time
9.30-10.30	Activity time (café)
10.30–11.00	Group time (family groups)
11.30–12.30	Dinnertime
12.30–1.30	Up group/quiet time and sleep
1.30 – 1.40	Get up and put shoes on
1.40–2.00	Circle/discussion time
2.00–3.00	Activity time (café)
3.00–3.30	Story/music time
4.00–4.30	Tea Time
4.30–5.55	Free play and quiet time

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

### CURRICULUM—THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Children between 3yrs and 5yrs follow a curriculum known as the Early Years Foundation Stage. It begins at birth and ends at the end of the reception year. Each activity and everything that we do meets an early learning goal and each child is assessed regularly so that we can plan for their next stage of development. To meet these goals we use evidence from your child and their work—we like to take photos of children completing activities and various things that they do throughout the day. All the children gather evidence of their development which is kept together in their 'learning journey' folders. (eg examples of attempts to write or drawings) Their progress is then recorded in a transfer report sent out to their infant schools. All of this information is given to you at the end of term before they start school but you are welcome to see their reports or speak to their carer at any time.

### **Circle/discussion time**

We have a circle and discussion time twice a day. During this time we take the register and encourage the children to sit and listen to other children about their thoughts and feelings. We talk about relevant subjects relating to the topic area we may be covering in that week. During this time we introduce our new topic areas and vocabulary relating to the topic.

### **Activity time**

Our activities are very much child initiated. We like to know what the children are interested in before we plan the activities. The activities are then well planned and linked to an early learning goal. All of the children can join in with the activities although they maybe adapted to cater for each child's individual need.

### **Free choice Play**

All of the children choose where they are going to play. We have areas of learning throughout the rooms including, maths, science, writing, craft, home corner, computer, sensory area and many more.

### **Café Merryvale**

Every activity time we set up a café area. This is where the children help themselves to a drink and snack and sit down and socialise with other children by using the café. Once they have been to the café they remove their name from the board and by doing this we know that they have had a drink and they also learn to recognise their name. Each child also has their own named water bottle of fresh water to drink throughout the day.

### **Up Group - quiet time!**

During 12.30–1.30 the pre school children spend an hour working with a qualified member of staff working on their pre-school skills, developing and improving certain areas. This group of children also take homework home and work with their parents. Parents are sent a list of the forthcoming topic areas and suggestions for activities to do at home. While the pre school children are working hard the rest of the children have quiet time and the opportunity to sleep if they want to or just sit back and listen to classical fm!



### **Story and music time**

Story time is one of the most enjoyable times of the day. We read and tell stories from books that we have collected over the years. We also like to visit Halesowen library and add some more to our collection.