Care, Learning & Play Policy

Policy created	01.09.2008	Version number	9.0
Last reviewed	01.11.2026	Next review date	01.11.2027

Plymtree Pre-school follows the EYFS principles, which guide the work of practitioners into following distinct but complementary themes:

A unique child – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive relationships – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and /or a key person

Enabling environments – the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning

Learning and development – children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of learning and development are equally important and inter-connected.

All staff build positive relationships with children by spending time with them in play and discussion, listening and caring to their needs. A key person system is in place. Playing with peers and forming friendships is encouraged by adults as this is important for children's development.

All staff and helpers encourage children to try activities, to explore and experiment. However, no child is forced to do an activity he/she feels uncomfortable with or doesn't want to. All activities are challenging but achievable. Sharing and turn taking is encouraged and adopted by staff members.

Plymtree Pre-school has a wide breadth of activities to reflect and support the whole learning and development of the child. Our planning takes into account the core provision of activities, purposeful play and planned activities. We have a balance of child-initiated, adult-led, inside/outside activities.

Resources are organised to reflect the ages and abilities of the children.

Plymtree Pre-school practises inclusion where all children, irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties or disabilities, gender or ability have the opportunity to experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development.

Long, medium and short term plans are organised by staff members to reflect the needs of the children at Pre-school. Observations of children are carried out frequently and plans are adapted to suit the children's interests, and to encourage them to become active learners. Schedules and routines flow with the child's needs. For example, if a child has not finished a particular activity he/she is given the time to complete it, while others perhaps are clearing away around her/him.

Plymtree Pre-school has a flexible approach that responds quickly to children's learning and development needs, based on observations and a coherence of learning and development across different settings and related to the child's experience at home. During circle time children are encouraged to bring in items of interest from home for 'show and tell' or talk about past experiences, perhaps what they did at the weekend etc.

Planning includes outings and visits within the community or by working in partnership with other professionals or individuals in the community to support children's learning in the wider context.

Plymtree Pre-school maintains the required adult to child ratio as set out in the EYFS Statutory Framework. Every interaction by staff members is based on caring professional relationships and respectful acknowledgment of the feelings of children and their families. Warm, trusting relationships of staff model good behaviour to children, learning right from wrong. Through example, encouragement and praise they support the child's learning in all areas of development to reach their early learning goals, knowing every child is unique and develop in individual ways and at varying rates.

Document History

Date	Change details	Reviewed by
21/01/10	New template	Shelley Robinson
09/02/11	Removed reference to parent rota Altering reference to adult to child ratio	Jackie Crowe
06/03/12	Reviewed	Jackie Crowe
02/03/13	Reviewed – no change	Rowan Pettitt
21/04/13	Changed 'Playgroup' to 'Pre-school'	Rowan Pettitt
18/09/13	Updated logo	Julie Pearce
01/04/14	Reviewed – no change	Julie Pearce
29/01/15	Reviewed – minor drafting changes	Ellie Hibberd
12/10/15	Policy reviewed – no changes	Rowan Pettitt
03/08/16	Policy reviewed – no changes	Rowan Pettitt
01/12/17	Policy reviewed – no change	Rowan Pettitt
02/10/18	Policy reviewed – no updates	Donna Manser
01/10/19	Policy reviewed – no updates	Donna Manser
23/10/20	Policy reviewed – no updates	Anna Shelbourne
22/09/21	Policy Reviewed – no updates	Anna Shelbourne

29/09/22	Policy reviewed – no update	Anna Shelbourne
01/09/23	Policy reviewed – no update	Charlotte Gibbins
01/09/24	Policy reviewed- no update	Charlotte Gibbins
01/10/25	Policy reviewed – added ref. to EYFS Statutory Framework	Clare Livingstone
01/11/26	Policy reviewed – no updates	Clare Livingstone