



# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES POLICY

## **Introduction**

Colinton Nursery has the principal objective of providing meaningful pre-school education and child care within a safe, friendly and caring nursery environment.

The important thing to recognize with each child's education is that the sooner it can begin the better.

Every parent wants to give their child the best possible start in life. Children attending primary school after having the benefit of a nursery education have a head start on those who do not.

We believe in taking what a child can do as the starting point to their education. Children progress and respond in different ways and we aim to create an environment which is tailored to accommodate each child's stage of development and is flexible enough to be adapted to suit his or her individual needs.

Just as love, time and attention will bring its rewarding responses from a young child in the comforting environment of the home, the situation a child finds itself in at nursery must match this "devotion" to their happiness and well-being if it is to be a worthwhile experience.

Marion Towers, the nursery owner of Colinton Nursery, is very much aware of what a nursery needs to be and do.

Carefully chosen staff, accommodation and facilities create a "home from home" environment and stimulating company, for babies from 3 months old.

## **The Nursery Approach**

At Colinton Nursery the challenges and needs of a nursery are approached in an intelligent and imaginative fashion.

We understand that our children are at the age where they may like to have their hands held, but we also take account of the adventurous and inquisitive nature of their young minds and bodies.

Re-assurance is given where it's needed, positive encouragement where it is beneficial.

The environment we have created is a caring and stimulating one in which children can develop confidence in themselves and their abilities - and also, through shared activity with other children, the all-important social skills. Everything happens at a pace the child feels comfortable with, and in a way they all really enjoy.

## **The Pre-school Child**

Prior to each child leaving for school, he/she will have a wealth of learning experience. In Particular our pre-school children are taught to:

1. Put on and take off shoes and clothes.
2. Brush teeth and hair.
3. Use the toilet unaided.
4. Know all shapes and colours.
5. Become familiar with the letters and their sounds.
6. Have a basic knowledge of numbers, addition and subtraction.
7. Pencil control and ability to write and recognise own written name.
8. Self-discipline - sit quietly for stories etc., to share, to follow and listen to simple instructions, to use cutlery and tidy up after themselves.
9. To interact in conversation, group games, projects etc.

### **The Garden**

The Nursery has a garden which is suitable for many outdoor activities. The hard areas becomes an extension of the Nursery in good weather.

### **The Staff**

We have a dedicated team of staff who use their individual talents to direct the children's energy into socially and intellectually stimulating channels. They are on hand to intervene when children are in need of direction, but equally are aware of the need to stand back and allow a child to solve a problem independently. Emphasis is laid on children selecting their own activities, thus allowing them to develop decision making skills and independence. Our role is to encourage children to be self-disciplined and to see and activity through from selection to completion.

### **Hours of Opening**

The Nursery is open all year from Monday to Friday except for five days over Christmas and New Year.

Full Day      8.00am - 6.00pm

Morning      8.00am - 1.00pm

Afternoon    1.15pm - 6.00pm

### **The Nursery Day**

The Nursery day includes time for play, creative activities, stories and music. The Nursery is well equipped for a variety of activities which include:

- Sand and water play
- Construction
- Drawing
- Painting
- Gluing
- Modelling
- Table top games (jigsaws, lotto etc.)

- Baking
- House play
- Dressing up

There are times in the day when the children are gathered together for stories, songs, group games or discussion. Lunch and snacks are taken together and this helps children to develop socially and to interact with one another as part of a group.

We have an on-going commitment to "little" projects. Successful past ones have looked into transport, colours, myself, food and space.

All these activities are designed and structured to let every child experience an important sense of involvement, continuity and achievement.

### **Music**

We aim to create an awareness and recognition of rhythm and time through song, movement to music and playing instruments.

### **Outings**

We have a number of visits and outings throughout the year to develop interests and activities which arise whilst in the Nursery.

### **Summary**

We do not consider our nursery and facilities to be solely for the children of working parents. Indeed, we have children whose mothers are not at work. These children attend part-time place at nursery to benefit from the level of care and education we have to offer and to interact with other children of similar ages.

Whatever the personal situation, whether looking for full-time or a part-time place Colinton Nursery will aim to provide the facilities, the abilities and the hours to fit in with parent's desires and commitments.