

# DOODLES AND POPS CURRICULUM

At Doodles and Pops our unique ethos and home from home environment ensures every child feels safe and secure during their time with us. We strive to build positive relationships with the children in our care and their families.

Our approach to your child's development starts with the Early Years Foundation Stage but stretches further as we offer your child a unique and wonderful beginning to their learning journey!

Our source for learning at Doodles and Pops is FUN! Our children learn through everyday play opportunities. Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of each individual child and covers the seven areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage. We understand that children learn at different rates and have different experiences in life, which is something we carefully consider when planning activities, whilst also taking into account their unique interests. Every learning priority has the seven areas of learning and development flowing throughout.

The principles which help to guide our Early Years Practitioners and flow throughout our curriculum are grouped into four 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/carers 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 times; all areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected.

## Learning and Development

### Three prime areas of learning

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

### Four specific areas of learning

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

## KEY INITIATIVES

Language rich environment: We understand how important it is for children to learn how to communicate and be able to strengthen their communication skills during their early childhood. With this in mind, we have created a language rich environment which we apply to the children's learning each day. Our main source for expanding language, vocabulary and early literacy skills is through stories. We create themed planning and use stories as a 'hook' into learning opportunities. We aim to embed the focus story into the different activities available and taught activities stem from the content and vocabulary within the book. We value reading together, during circle times, transitions, snack times or during specific activities as we want to support children to develop a lifelong love of reading; and of course we love to do some book snuggling for that one to one time to build our relationships and make connections.

Quality circle times: Quality circle times empower children to practice different skills such as taking it in turns, speaking and listening, creating bonds and understanding how we are unique as well as enjoying the company of the children and adults around us. Circle times flow throughout the entire nursery, starting in Tiny Twinkles all the way up to Rainbow Room. We are mindful of the age and stages of development that the individual child is at, and bare this in mind when we have our circle times. We make sure the children are in a comfy space to be able to really relax and engage if they would like to, and plan the times where the children will not be interrupted so that we don't lose focus. Circle times can range from songs, stories and self registration to talking about how we are feeling and what we have been doing at home with our families.

Self-regulation: We believe that children flourish best when their Personal, Social and Emotional needs are supported and met, so our ethos is all about helping children to be able to understand their different emotions and navigate through their feelings in an age appropriate way. We talk about our feelings a lot at Doodles and Pops and really encourage children to speak out when they would like to tell us about how they might be feeling, why they might be feeling that way, and (if sad) what we can do to help to make them feel better. Children who experience nurturing and stable caregiving go on to develop a greater resilience and an ability to be able to self regulate uncomfortable and overwhelming emotions.

Messy Play: Lots of the children at Doodles and Pops love to enter the room and delve straight into some kind of sensory or messy activity after saying goodbye to their loved ones. We know that messy play encourages brain development, hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, imagination and problem solving, and some children just love to get stuck straight in with this form of play. Messy play can also be a way of children exploring the use of all 5 of their senses (touch, smell, taste, sound and sight) so we give children the opportunity to explore with various textures to really get the most out of their sensory experiences. This will link with our theme for the week and our story of the week can be used to extend the vocabulary during the children's time at the messy play stations.

Role play and self-expression: Our role play areas regularly change as we incorporate this area with our chosen theme, story and the children's interests. The children at Doodles and Pops use role play to build relationships with their peers and this is a key opportunity to develop and strengthen communication, for example, through talking to each other or with an adult modelling, repeating speech and introducing new vocabulary. The role play areas provide children with opportunities to express themselves as they find themselves immersed in a world that is completely their own. This may be going on a dinosaur adventure, a mission to space, down to the local post office or wherever their imagination leads them.

Music and Movement: We can't get enough of our singing and music times at Doodles and Pops. Singing nursery rhymes with the children is something that we do daily, multiple times a day. Sometimes we do this with instruments and sometimes we use our bodies to make actions or sounds for the different songs. Singing is a great way for children to develop their communication and the use of repetition allows them to learn the vocabulary used and develop their speech sounds. We use music in every room of the nursery, this could be singing songs together or listening to the soothing sounds on our devices to aid our play. For example, listening to the oriental garden sounds linked to our exploration of Chinese New Year. We frequently ask the children if they would like to choose which songs they would like to sing, which encourages their listening skills, turn taking and shows them that we value their voice. Yoga is taught to the children which supports their personal, social and emotional development as well as their physical development as they control and stretch their bodies.