

Statement of Intent

At Sticky Fingers we aim to give children confidence to believe in themselves and to enable them to want to learn and not to be afraid to challenge themselves and try again. We want all children to be proud of themselves and their abilities to achieve. We strive to teach children all we can through play and fun whilst they are with us and whilst we are promoting school readiness.

We are open to children over the age of 2 years 6 months up to 5 years old and our sessions are mixed age groups.

We are members of the Early Learning Alliance (formerly known as Preschool Learning Alliance), and as such your family as preschool members are automatically members of the association.

It is important to us that we:

- create an environment which encourages children to develop a positive self-image, regardless of race, language, religion, culture, special needs, or home background.
- help children to establish and sustain satisfying relationships within their families, with peers, and with other adults.
- encourage children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence.
- enable children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.
- work with parents and carers to build their understanding of and commitment to the welfare of all our children.



Curriculum

Our focus is to ensure that every child is offered equal opportunities to be able to grow as an individual within our setting. We aim to offer a relaxed, welcoming, and enriched environment supporting children's desires to explore, discover, learn, and develop. Whilst receiving the most generous care and attention supporting progress and celebrating achievements.

Our Preschool is a registered charity supported by a board of committee members, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expect all Staff, volunteers, and visitors to share this commitment.

Curriculum Aims

This document sets out our curriculum aims which support and underpin our everyday practice.

At Sticky Fingers Preschool our curriculum is focused and centred around the individual child. We aim to embrace the interests of the children and remain responsive to their curiosity and thinking. Our approach and free flow style environment allows children the freedom to make choices and be an advocate of their own learning, both indoors and outdoors.

We hold high value towards the individual child, this is reflected within the ethos of our setting and has been a key factor in the development of our curriculum. Children are given the opportunity to explore, appreciate and understand the natural world, take & manage risks and ultimately develop a love of themselves and what they are doing and to appreciate and accept others individuality and ways of life.

Our practitioners are facilitators to children's learning, their role is to observe, support & extend learning, offer meaningful opportunities and experiences whilst listening to the child and tuning into their needs and interests focusing on a child centred part planned and part open curriculum.



Pedagogy

The curriculum and practice of Sticky Fingers Preschool is inspired by two pedagogical approaches.

The Reggio Emilia approach (Italy), in Reggio Emilia the image of the child is that of competent, strong, and amazing individuals who have rights and responsibilities. Children are given the opportunity to realise their potential.

Children are required to express themselves in a variety of ways. Referred to as the hundred languages. For us to fulfil this pedagogical approach out (Reggio Emilia) we follow an 'emergent curriculum', this is planned and part open, allowing us to organise the space, environment, materials, concepts, situations, and reasons for learning. This opens the opportunity for the five elements; interaction, communication, experimentation, construction, and representation to take shape without a specific desired result allowing children to realise and test their own potential. The processes of the child are observed and recorded in order to continue the flow of the emergent curriculum.

Tiziana Filippini about the Reggio Emilia approach; "for us each child is unique and the protagonist of his/her own growth. We also note that children desire to acquire knowledge, have much capacity for curiosity and amazement and yearn to create relationships with others and to communicate".



Our other approach that significantly impacts on our practices is that of Anna Ephgrave and her in the moment approach to teaching and learning. The in the moment approach has been something we have followed for several years so is strongly embedded into our practice. This style of pedagogy supports the EYFS 2023 cycle of observation, assessment, and planning, that we carry out on a moment-by-moment basis. Progress, development, interests, and experiences are recorded and reflected upon after they have happened. It also strengthens the use of The Development Matters non statutory curriculum guidance we use for checkpoints and advice to ensure that the children at Sticky Fingers are reaching their full potential and are not at risk of 'falling behind'.

Anna Ephgrave on the in the moment approach; "with planning in the moment children are actively engaged in construction and reconstruction of their own learning".

Our approach to the curriculum is each child has their own journey and develops at the pace that suits them and in a way that suits their learning and developmental needs. We use all this information to build a curriculum that individually suits them and their 'cultural capital'.



Our curriculum at Sticky fingers blends 2 pedagogical approaches that suit our way of delivery this is Part Planned and Part Open methods of learning and development.

Our Part Planned approach is embedded using the Development Matters non statutory guidance for the early year's foundation stage 2023. This supports our moment-to-moment method of observation, assessment and planning inspired by Anna Ephgrave when designing the EYFS. The Development Matters guide 2023 helps us monitor progress and gives checkpoints to help us ensure children are not falling behind.

Part Planned – planning around children's interest.

Our Part Open approach is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. This underpins the way we develop our emergent curriculum by organising the space and the environment the children play and explore in order to allow the children to realise and test their potential.

Part Open – allowing children to work at their own pace and discover and realise their own potential.

The words we like to use to best describe our curriculum delivery are **enriched, fulfilling, meaningful and joyful**.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2023 sets out right from the start the important factor that;

“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child experiences between 0 and age 5 have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high-quality early learning provide the foundations children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.”

Our curriculum at Sticky Fingers is underpinned by the 7 areas of learning within the statutory framework. Children are provided with a range of experiences and opportunities that support all areas within the EYFS. The Development Matters 2023 supports our practitioners with the facilitation of learning and ensuring that the foundations set through the EYFS are at the heart of what we do.

Prime areas:

1. Communication and language
2. Personal, social, and emotional development
3. Physical development

Specific areas:

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive art and design

The overarching principals that shape practice in accordance with the EYFS 2023 are:

- Every child is unique.
- Positive relationships
- Enabling environments (with teaching and support from adults)
- Learning and developing

You can see how the EYFS links well with our curriculum aims and pedagogical approaches.

