



The North London Forest School Nursery Curriculum Intentions Overview

At the North London Forest School Nursery, we have developed our curriculum based on up to date brain development research. This research suggests that 'social interaction', 'physical activity' and an environment that exposes children to a variety of new and interesting sensory activities contribute to a child's healthy brain development.

Our curriculum encourages children to learn and play through sensory interaction with nature and the outdoor world. We have combined the Early Years Foundation Stage seven areas of learning, the Letters and Sounds Framework and the Forest School ethos to create a balanced approach to learning. We promote independence, communication, resilience, problem solving and teamwork alongside a respect for the natural world and always with the diversity of the children and families in mind. Our experienced and passionate staff plan exciting activities based on the children's interests and age and stage of development, which promote all seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The children are supported in their personal, emotional and social development through strong relationships with their key teachers who are assigned to closely observe and plan for each child's 'cultural capital', alongside promoting close friendships with peers. We use story books and puppets to support children emotionally through play. Children are encouraged to support and guide each other throughout the day, from greeting each other in the morning to helping each other put their coats on for example. Children are encouraged to talk about their feelings to both the staff and their peers, supported by calm activities where needed.

Our staff plan for and scaffold the children's learning through a variety of adult led and child led play situations. The children are offered choices throughout the day, as well as a well a structured routine which allows the day to flow smoothly.

Here is a good link for Brain Development Research:

[How Outdoor Play Feeds Early Brain Development - Free Forest School](#)

Cultural Capital Definition

Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success. It is about giving children the best possible start to their early education. As part of making a judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider how well leaders use the curriculum to enhance the experience and opportunities available to children, particularly the most disadvantaged. (142 p31 *Ofsted Early Years Inspection Handbook*, Sept 2019)

Curriculum intentions

The NLFS Nursery aims to:

- Provide children with a safe and welcoming environment within which to learn and grow.
- Build children's confidence and self esteem to learn new skills and knowledge throughout their time at NLFSN as well as beyond.

- Give children the correct environment and support to explore using their senses and allow them the freedom to learn through their own interests.
- Offer experiences which promote new language and a sense of awe and wonder, supported by experienced staff.
- Support children in their personal and emotional development to make friends and build strong connections with the staff and their peers.
- Guide and support children to respect and have a passion for nature and the outdoor environment.
- Offer diverse and culturally relevant learning experiences, including celebrating festivals and celebrations, encouraging children to speak their first languages and learn about the world.
- Support and encourage an interest in mathematics, science and literacy and give children the foundation they need to build on these skills in the future.
- Offer children choices and help them to make their own decisions to make the correct choices for themselves.

School Readiness

What does school readiness mean to the NLFS Nursery?

School readiness can be a hotly debated topic and it can be confusing for families to understand what their young children need to know before they go to primary school. At the NLFSN we believe school readiness shows through:

- Children who are confident to speak their mind, ask questions and look for answers.
- Children who are independent and resilient in new and sometimes worrying situations.
- Children who help others to help themselves, use language to discuss issues and are confident to ask for help when needed.
- Children who learn the value of teamwork.
- Children who have confidence in their own abilities and the abilities of others.
- Children who understand the world is a diverse place and believe that diversity is important.
- Children who are prepared with a strong foundation in the seven areas of the EYFS.

It is always important to remember that the early years and therefore the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is for children from birth to 5 years. Children do not need to know everything before attending reception as reception classes use the same standard curriculum goals as nurseries and childminders.

A Strong Foundation in Literacy

The NLFS Nursery use the Letters and Sounds Framework (Phase One) to support children in learning literacy skills. This framework offers simple games and activities which help children to develop basic oral segmenting and blending skills. We supplement this framework with the use of Jolly Phonics songs and actions to promote learning of the letters of the alphabet and sounds they make. This learning takes place throughout the day and not during a specified literacy carpet time, in order to best link it to the children's interests.

A Strong Foundation in Maths

The NLFS Nursery introduce mathematical terms and concepts throughout the day, using nature and the environment. Children are encouraged for instance to notice door and bus numbers on the walk to their outings. We look for numbers and shapes in the outdoor environment, build with blocks, sticks and tarpaulin and count the sticks, leaves and the ducks on the pond. We have large and small scale building available at the indoor base, as well as numbers to play and count with. Children play

with different materials in the mud kitchen, to weigh and measure and create their own mud kitchen recipes, just to mention a few of the learning opportunities that children are presented with.