

September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

How we observe and follow your child's development

At Emscote Preschool we observe the children using the 7 areas of development.

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Creative

We use OPAL to record the children's development.

OPAL stands for **Observation of Play and Learning** and was developed by Barnet Early Years Alliance. It's an approach which aims to put joy back into observing children!

What are the benefits of observation in early years?

Observation **helps us assess children's progress**; we can find out about the specific care and learning needs of each child. We can then plan the next steps in children's development and learning. To find out about a child we need to observe them in a way that is valuable to the child and makes best use of our time.

When the children begin at Emscote Preschool the staff will get to know the children and learn what they like to play and introduce new activities too. After a six-week period the staff will talk to the parents about how they have developed and the milestones that they have met or are needing a bit of support with. We encourage parents to help us with these milestones such as toilet training, sharing, showing an awareness of number and much more.

As each child reaches 36 months, 42 months, 48 months, 54 months, and 60 months their development is reviewed, and the staff will meet to discuss how we can support each child to reach their milestones and beyond. This means that the staff are continually discussing the children's development as each child will reach months at different times of the academic year.

Using this approach, the staff can plan activities to support the areas of learning and the children's stages of development.

Parents are invited to have a meeting with their child's key person each term. This is a time to talk about the child's development but also for the parents to ask questions, to talk about any concerns and to look around the preschool environment.

We encourage the parents to email, telephone or come into preschool to discuss any concerns that they may have about their child's development. Our team are all friendly and approachable and want the best for your child.

The staff use Tapestry to communicate with parents about their child's day, add observations and print pictures that are sent from home such as visits to the zoo or farm park.

A floor book where pictures of the children's artwork, photos of their experiences and memories are shared with the children on a regular basis.

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