

Uplands Nursery ethos

What is The Curiosity Approach?

The Curiosity Approach aims to create 'thinkers & doers' by putting the child at the centre of their own development and education. Modern toys and technology are removed from the learning environment and replaced with everyday items to encourage children's natural curiosity and eagerness to explore and create. Many of these items are authentic resources which can be broken, allowing the children to learn how to respect and take care items. If an item is plastic, they will never learn the consequences of what happens when it is dropped. The aim is to create a home from home feel, with muted tones and no colourful displays; which lead to over stimulation for the children. Relationships with the children are built out of mutual respect, there are no punishments or rewards. We aim to foster and develop intrinsic motivation for our children.

What this means for your children:

Children have access to a calm and nurturing environment, where they can be themselves and develop at their own pace. We offer a free flow set up, where children can access the garden whenever they choose; the garden is an extension of our inside area, with areas for mark making, reading and small world play. Snack and lunch times are a social time, where we all sit together to rest and talk. The children use glass cups, china plates and pour themselves drinks for jugs. It has become an event and creates a sense of belonging for the children. The children have enjoyed being given the trust and responsibility to use breakable crockery. Having snack as a whole group has also created plenty of opportunity for communication between the children, sharing and turn taking when it comes to pouring their drinks. We have removed all the toys such as car garage, which can only be used one way (closed resources), this has led to the children being far more engaged and imaginative in their play, as they are the creators of what they are building.

When the children come in the morning, they find their own name card to self register, and then vote for which story they would like at circle time. We set up invitations for the children to come and explore and learn through play each day, as well as small group phonics and number learning. We follow the children's interests and set up provocations to extend children's learning in the moment. Children always have access to: play dough, construction, small world play, books, creative table, sand play, sensory play and much more. Resources are accessible to the children and they can be moved across the Nursery, depending on the way the children wish to use them.





