

## 1. The Curriculum for Excellence – Developing the 4 Capacities

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfill their full potential. A safe, secure and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their talents and abilities as they grow up.

### The Purpose and aims of the Curriculum for Excellence and Early Years Framework

The Scottish Curriculum for Excellence provides a definitive profile of children's learning experiences, outcomes and progression from 3-18. **The Early Years Framework** describes the progression and stages of development of children from birth – five years and how they can be kept safe and well cared for, in order for them to achieve their full potential. The Framework provides the guidance for all early years practitioners, when supporting learning and development of children in their care.

At the heart of this framework is an approach which recognises the right of all young children to high quality relationships, environments and services that offer a holistic approach to meeting their needs. These needs encompass play, learning, social relationships and emotional and physical wellbeing.

The purpose of the Curriculum for Excellence is encapsulated in **the four capacities**; the curriculum aims for all children to become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/understandingthecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/>

We use the framework as essential advice and guidance to inform our planning and evaluate the practice and quality of our nursery to ensure every child between birth and five make age appropriate progress. We work with you to carefully document the progress of your child through their home and nursery experiences. The Framework will also be used in your child's first years at Primary School and this personalised learning plan then forms part of the smooth transition to primary school.

### **What do you need to know?**

- Children should have a stimulating environment that will provide them with independence and freedom of choice. The environment should be planned and carefully resourced to allow for a variety of play experiences including areas appropriate for quiet, imaginative, constructive, tactile, creative, physical and free play. The environment should incorporate indoor and outdoor opportunities and experiences.
- Children should have their individual needs, interests and passions for learning met and planned for in order for them to reach their full potential. We highly value your input to your child's learning and development.
- At Bonnington House Nursery we implement the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), Early Years Framework to a very high standard, and our staff will continually attend training in all areas of the framework, to ensure our practice reflects all of the guidance and statutory requirements. However, we believe that the child-centred and play-based approach that we offer far exceeds the requirements of the CfE, and our practice will always be of a very high standard.
- To ensure children are provided with high quality opportunities for learning and development, staff at Bonnington House, use responsive planning. Each Key Person carefully observes their children throughout the day and during activities. This evidence that has been recorded in observations is used to inform their planning for the next steps in their key children's learning and development.

### **What can you do to help your children?**

As your child's parent / carer you are their first and most important teacher, and your child will be learning continually while they are with you. This is why it is so important that you are able to share and discuss your child's achievements with your child's key person at nursery.

There are many ways to further extend your child's learning and development at home; here are just a few ideas:

- Read stories together
- Singing nursery rhymes.
- Talking to your child whilst you are out and about, about the different things you can see.
- Counting in everyday contexts e.g. up and down the stairs
- Allow some independence, E.g. Children feeding themselves.
- Helping setting the table, matching and pairing.
- Provide opportunities for spontaneous mark making, drawing or writing.
- Make written or mental notes of children's achievements to share at nursery.
- Provide plenty of **praise and encouragement** for all of your child's achievements and efforts.