

Planning in the moment



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Improved Learning Methods

Planning in the moment is a child-centred teaching approach which supports children's natural desire to explore and learn. From September 2018, Mead Open Farm Day Nursery and Pre-School are rolling out this new style of planning. This guide explains what it is, what is changing and how your child will benefit.

An introduction

We all know children are much more interested when they are engaged in what they are doing.

Planning in the moment enables our childcare team to be spontaneous and turn any play experience into a learning opportunity.

What changes will be made?

Spontaneous teaching around what the child is doing

Like they do now, your child can still expect plenty of stimulating activities every day, however your child will have complete autonomy of which activity they do.

Teaching in the moment enables our team to build upon a child's natural interest. A child recently brought in a map of Cornwall and the childcare team recognised this as the child's interest. They therefore, took the children on a tour of Mead Open Farm and all our children then created their own maps of the farm and the routes they took.



More in depth feedback

You will still obtain daily feedback from your nominated key person, however, you will now receive more focussed feedback monthly in the baby room, every 5 weeks in the toddler room and every 10 weeks in the Pre-School room.

During your child's focus week, we shall complete a 'learning journey sheet', that will record key areas of development, areas for future development, learning patterns and anything else that is crucial to the progression of your child's development.

We will also be recording 'wow moments', that reflect what the child has done for the first time independently. These moments will be recorded on-going and are not just recorded for the children on the week of their focus week.

Recording this information is vital and every child will have a scrapbook which will contain their learning journal sheet, wow moment sheets and evidence.

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Working with EYFS

We want to ensure children still enjoy early maths, embrace literacy and build confidence in all areas of learning.

Planning in the moment fits nicely with the Early Years Framework, which outlines the 7 key areas of learning from the Department of Education.

If you are not familiar with the EYFS framework, the 7 areas of learning are:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development – Involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others.

Physical Development – Involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement.

Communication & Language Development – Involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment and help children speak and listen in a range of situations.

Literacy Development – Involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write.

Mathematics – Involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting and understanding of using numbers.

Understanding the World – Involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world, by providing opportunities to explore, observe and find out about their environment.

Expressive Arts & Design – Involves enabling children to explore and play with a range of media and materials.

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Creating the correct environments

With planning in the moment, it is critical to have an environment that entices the children's engagement and reflects their current interests. Enabling them to fully emerge themselves in learning.

Outdoor Learning Environment

Children will be encouraged to love the great outdoors. Our Day Nursery and Pre-school include:

- **Free-Flow Gardens** – All children will have total freedom to go inside and out as they please.
- **Appropriate Risk-Taking** – Children learn from taking risks, it is important however to ensure that all risks are controlled and appropriate.
- **Louder, Messier, Bigger** – Outdoor fun will ultimately be louder and messier than indoor play, children have the opportunity to fully explore and learn about our natural world.
- **Visits to the Farm** – All our children enjoy regular visits to the farm, where they are able to see and feed the animals.



Indoor Learning Environment

Natural resources are available indoors and outdoors at Mead Open Farm Day Nursery and Pre-School, giving children plenty of choice.

- **Essential Areas** – Our Day Nursery and Pre-School has the following essential areas for indoor play which includes:
 - **Creative Zone**
 - **Construction & Role Play**
 - **Book Area**
 - **Cooking Area**
 - **Small World**
 - **Sand and Water Play.**

All these areas encourage development across all areas of the EYFS such as building fine motor skills for writing in the playdough area and looking at early maths when pretending to be a shop keeper in the role play area.

- **Open shelving** – We want children to be curious. Materials are accessible at all times allowing for children to explore and engage.

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