

HACKENTHORPE HALL NURSERY

In the Moment Planning

What is In The Moment Planning?

The idea of in the moment planning is to capture the interest of the child in the present moment. We offer an environment that enables child-initiated play and then we capture the moment that the child becomes engaged. This interest can then be built upon and becomes a 'teachable moment' When children are playing and selecting what to do themselves, they become deeply engaged.

We aim to:

- * Provide opportunities and environments that stimulate curiosity
- * Observe and listen closely so we can follow the child's lead
- * Identify the item/place/person/idea that has sparked the child's interest
- * Use open ended questions that require a description rather than Yes/No answers - these usually start with what? How? Why? rather than Do, Is or Can
- * Praise and reinforce positive learning experiences

A good example of child-led play are areas in the playroom for a number of different activities and varied items of interest. Children are then given the opportunity to choose what or where they play.

When the practitioner engages with the child, they approach the child to ask about the activity, rather than calling the child to them. Just making this one change in the behaviour brings about a complete shift in emphasis and focus. The practitioner is then curious and enthusiastic about what the child is doing, which then leads to a moment where child-led learning can take place. Each time the practitioner interacts with a child, they are observing, assessing, planning for and responding to that individual child.

We do not always need to prepare daily or weekly plans in advance to lead the sessions. The planning effort needed is to prepare an engaging environment.

Our aim is to offer an environment that will excite and interest the children where our focus is enhancing experiences.

Examples of extending children's learning could be large wooden blocks becoming a car, a boat, a stage, a staircase. A cardboard box can be a house, a car, a garage or a dolls house.

We don't change the environment if it is engaging the children.

"Teaching... includes.... communicating and modelling language, showing, explaining, demonstrating, exploring ideas, encouraging, questioning, recalling, providing a narrative for what they are doing, facilitating and setting challenges." Ofsted"