Teaching and Learning

7 key features- High quality care

Leicester City Council

The child's experience must always be central to the thinking of every practitioner.

Babies, toddlers and young children thrive when they are loved and well cared for. Every practitioner needs to enjoy spending time with young children.

Effective practitioners are responsive to children and babies for example, they notice when a baby looks towards them and gurgles and respond with pleasure.

Understanding children's behaviour is vital. Practitioners need to understand that toddlers are learning to be independent, so they will sometimes get frustrated.

Starting school, and all the other transitions in the early years, are big steps for small children and practitioners should be sensitive as to how they support the child.

Task

It is key that staff have warm consistent relationships with the children they work with in order for them to thrive. Therefore, it is so important that staff enjoy being with children and have time to remember why they followed this career pathway in the first place.

Go back to the beginning - ask yourself or your staff team -

- Why did you want to work with children?
- What’s the best thing about working with children?
- What do you want to achieve when working with children?
- What’s the best memory you have of working with a child?
- How do these experiences positively affect you?
- List 5 reasons why working with children is rewarding?

Celebrate this by creating a display, capturing the comments, and sharing with other staff and families.