



newsletter

Newsletter – November / December 2017



&



Christmas Newsflash

“Together we make a family!”

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and like us on Facebook!

Three great ways for you to keep up to date with all the latest news from the KingsWellies gang!

Halloween Celebrations

We had a great time dressing up, baking, partying and designing pumpkins during our Halloween week. Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Pumpkin carving. The competition was VERY strong this year. The children ALL LOVED admiring the huge assortment of pumpkin characters each day!

Well done to our winners - Timmy with the Gruffalo, Riley with Peppa Pig, Jet with Cookie Monster, Amy with a Minion, Braydon with his KingsWellies logo, Cameron's Spiderman, Ellie's VW Bunty van and Naya with her very scary hungry pumpkin. It was extremely difficult to judge but parents, children and staff all cast their votes.





Visit from the Princes Trust Volunteers

We had great fun working with some visitors from the Princes Trust. They set up a scavenger hunt for us around the building. They also showed us how to play some of the types of games that our mums and dads would have played at school. We really liked playing hopscotch, what's the time Mr Woolf, hide and seek, dodge ball and British bulldogs.





Songs and Toasted Marshmallows around the Campfire

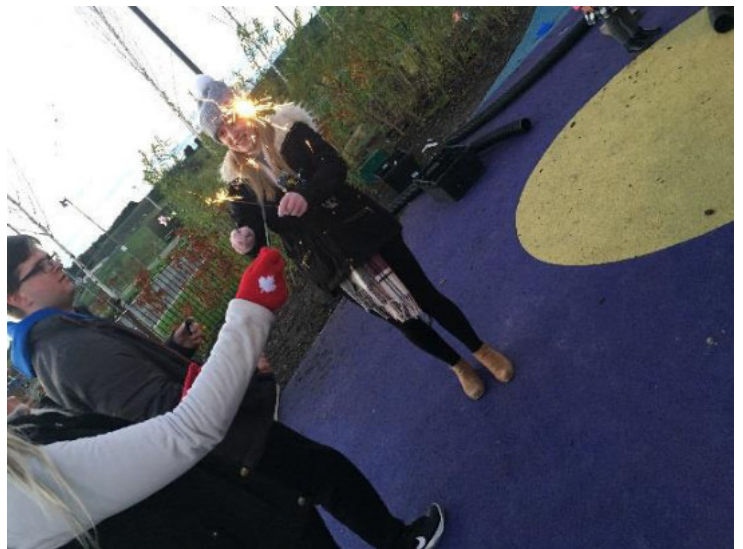
We loved toasting our marshmallows around the fire and making smores! They were delicious! Scott told us all about fire safety and we completed our risk assessments together.





Fun with Sparklers!

We had great fun being out in the dark and seeing all the different shapes made by our sparklers.



Yoga

The children LOVE participating in their Yoga with Jen each week. We have been working on self-regulation, breathing techniques, extending our muscles and lots of good listening.



Eco Schools Scotland

We have recently applied for our Green flag and are keeping our fingers crossed that we have worked hard enough to receive this prestigious award! Well done to Laura who has put together a very impressive power point presentation and portfolio of evidence. We have been VERY busy learning all about the importance of being an Eco nursery. Our Eco Schools folder is in reception for you to have a look at. Please let us know if you have any additional ideas and suggestions for us.





The Scottish Daily Mile

We have been very busy trying to ensure that we walk, jog or run for at least 15 minutes each day. Most children can average around a mile in that time. The children have loved participating in this challenge and it is difficult to get them to stop after the 15 minutes! Well done everyone. Great work.



Staffing Update

Welcome to Bethany who has recently started working with us on a part-time basis. Welcome also to Lala who will be with us every Thursday until June. Lala is attending college to complete her HNC in childhood practice and we are delighted to be her placement nursery.



Bethany



Lala

Life Skills Consultation

Many thanks to all those who responded to our Life Skills Consultation. We received four responses from parents. We consulted with all staff and also our Wellie Beans children. We have now taken ALL responses and combined them in order to review our Life Skills Awards. We have also extended these in to our Toddler room (Blue Award). I have attached these for your information. They will also be displayed outside each room on the curricular noticeboards.



Life Skills Awards

This month, we will be focusing on the following:

Red Award (pre-school children): I have helped a friend, I can share my toys, I help to tidy up

Pink Award (anti-pre-school children): I can share my toys nicely with my peers, I know when to wash my hands

Blue Award (toddler children): I can share nicely with my friends, I can wash my hands

Please help us by reinforcing these VERY important skills at home too.

Children in Need – W/B 13th November

Lots of fun and fundraising this week! Please come to nursery dressed in spots all week and donate £1. We will also be holding a special teddy bear's picnic in our pyjamas on Friday 17th November. Please donate £1 to take part. Can you take part in our duck race and spotty treasure hunts? These will be throughout the nursery with lots of prizes to be won. Have you got any old £1 coins left? Why not donate them to Children in Need? We will keep our fingers crossed for a visit from Pudsey too! This is a very worthwhile cause. Please help in any way that you can. Many thanks.

Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on a variety of topics in our playrooms. These will include:

- **KINDNESS – Are you a bucket filler or a bucket dipper?**
- KINDNESS with the Clangers – What is kindness? Kindness to family. Kindness to the environment. Kindness to our community. Kindness to ourselves.
- Bulb planting with Coull Green Residents Association who have 2000 bulbs to plant! Many thanks to Sarah Robertson (Annabel's Mummy) for organising this for us. We can't wait to get stuck in!
- The Scottish Daily Mile - we aim to jog, run or walk for up to 15 minutes every day!
- Fun with forces – LOTS of Science experiments!
- LOTS of Reflection Time in our interest groups; talking about our learning and what we would like to learn with our key workers. Look out for our Learning Mascots making a surprise visit!
- Seasons – Autumn and Winter
- Festivals and traditions
- Grow well choices – making healthy decisions
- World map project – **Where have you visited in the world? Have you got any photos or souvenirs for our display in reception?**
- Pyjama Drama, Yoga, PE, Jo Jingles, Kids Rock and **MOO MUSIC!**
- Christmas and lots of festive celebrations
- The Nativity and the birth of Jesus
- 5th November – Bonfire Night and firework safety. Who was Guy Fawkes? Toasting marshmallows and singing songs around the fire
- 11th November – Diwali Festival of Lights
- 12th November – Remembrance Sunday
- 13th November – Kindness day
- W/B 13th November – Children in Need fundraising week. Wear your spotty clothes all week.
- 17th November – Children in Need teddy bear's picnic. Wear your pjs and donate £1.
- 20th November – Universal Children's day
- 30th November – St Andrew's day. Wear something tartan this week.
- 3rd December – International day of persons with disabilities
- 5th December – World soil day
- 9th December – International Xmas card day
- 10th December – Human rights day
- 14th December – International Monkey day
- 21st December – British Summertime ends

- 24th December – Hanukkah begins (Jewish)
- 25th December – Christmas day
- 31st December – New Years day
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing – **LOTS of exciting learning opportunities. Have you seen our home-link activities in reception? Please help yourself to our “sound” and “number bags” which are outside the Wellie Beans room and are available for anyone to borrow.**

Mabel's Wonderful Knitting

WOW!! Look what Kayleigh's VERY talented Granny Mabel, knitted for us! Our Christmas Carolers and Nativity scene will take PRIDE of place in our Christmas decorations this year. We love them and are so very thankful. If anyone would like to give Mabel an order for a hand-knitted personalised gift, please see Kerry. Mabel can knit ANYTHING and loves a project! Thanks Mabel – you have made our day!

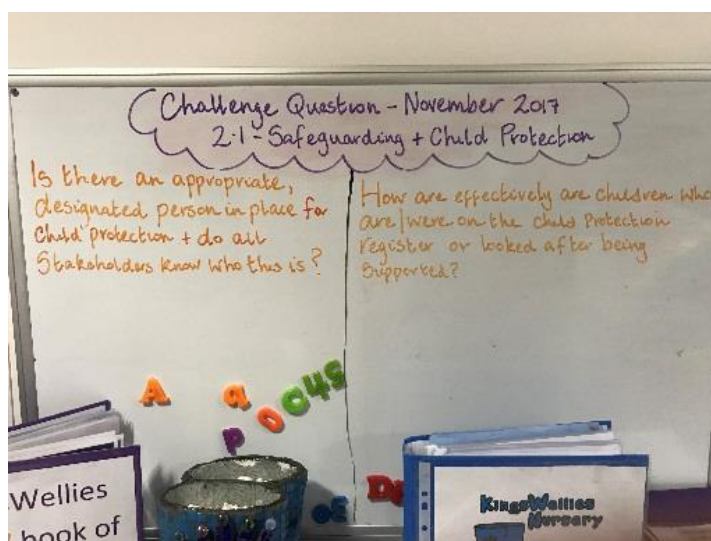


Parental Consultations

Question of the month November 2017

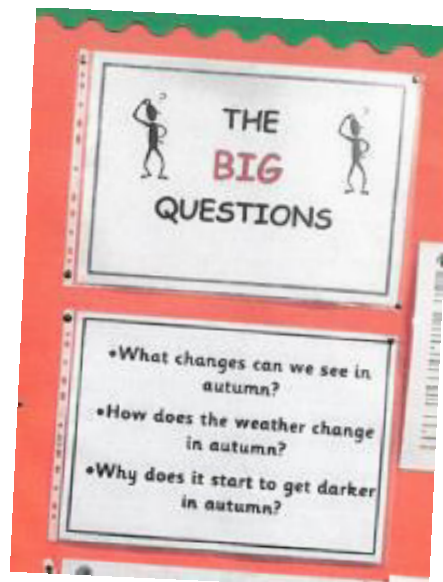
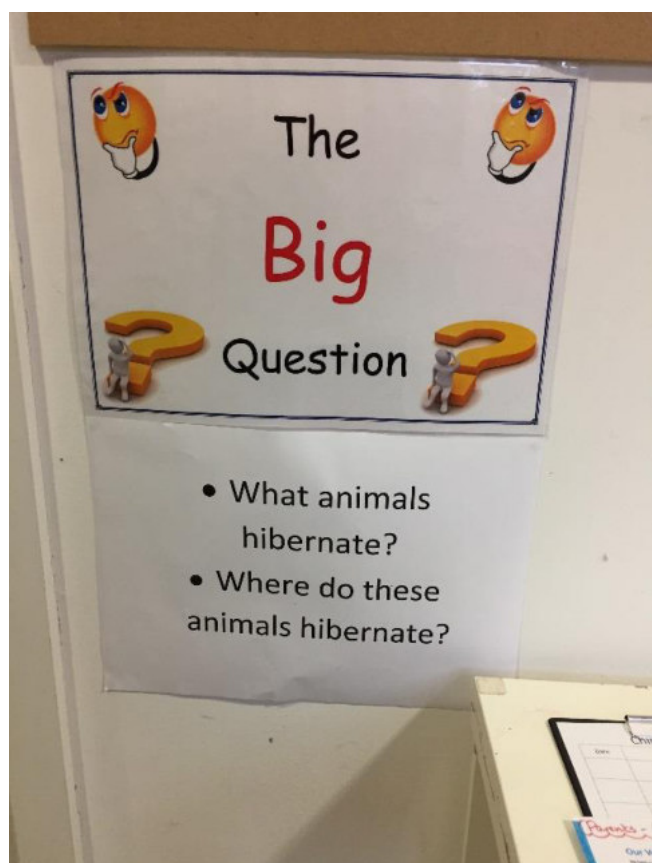
Each month we strive to self-evaluate our practice because we want to be a better nursery. We also need our parents to give us feedback.

Our November question of the month comes from How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare and focuses on Quality Indicator 2.1: Child Protection and Safeguarding. All of our staff have recently been involved in refreshing their child protection training. **Kerry is our Child Protection Coordinator within KingsWellies Nursery.** Please give us your comments. Your feedback means a lot to us.



The BIG Questions

We will be asking our children lots of BIG questions as part of their topic work. Can you discuss them with your children at home also?



Feedback for our Architects

We would really like to give our architect some feedback about our nursery building and what our stakeholders think of it. Please find the attached consultation for your completion. You can also find these outside each room and in reception.

Vision, Values and Aims

We recently emailed you out a copy of our Vision, Values and Aims as we are in the process of reviewing these. Please find them attached. You can find these in our KingsWellies Nursery Prospectus, our KingsWellies Policy documents and also in frames up around the nursery.



We want to know whether or not we are getting them right? They need to be MORE than just words. We are asking our parents, staff, partners and children to review these with us. Please can you give us your feedback? What should we add / delete? What are we doing well? What could we do better? You will find copies of the attached document outside each room and also in reception. We will look forward to hearing from you.

KingsWellies Policies of the Month

This month we would like to provide you with the opportunity to review and consult on our Early Learning Opportunities and Play Policy. We hope that you find this information useful. Please give us your feedback and suggestions. Your feedback will shape our future priorities for improvement.

Christmas Holidays

Just a reminder that we are closed for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year Period. We close at 6pm on Friday 22nd December 2017 and reopen at 7.30am on Monday 8th January 2018. It will be here before we know it!

Stay and Play days

Many thanks to all who recently attended our Stay and Play Days. We hope that you enjoyed these and learnt more about our curriculum and life at KingsWellies. Please remember to complete your Evaluation Form and return it to the office.

Aberdeen City Council Pre-School Funding

For all those of you who have children who are approaching aged three or are already three years old, you will be entitled to apply for pre-school funding from Aberdeen City Council. Please see Aimee or Kerry in order to complete the appropriate forms.



Comments, Compliments and Concerns

Please give us your feedback – good and bad. It means a lot to us! We only want to keep improving in order to provide the BEST service possible. PLEASE make us your first port of call if you have any comments or concerns. If we work together, we will be able to achieve the very best for all of our children. Many thanks.

We also have Compliments slips available in reception in relation to our staff. The staff work very hard and we all know that it is nice to hear a compliment from time to time. Many thanks to those parents who have already paid staff members a compliment. We are always looking for Workers of the Week and Workers of the Month.

Entier Shine Awards – February 2018

PLEASE nominate Shona as part of the Entier Shine Awards. Shona is such a VERY important part of our team. Children and staff appreciate her help and enthusiasm so much. You can find nomination forms and our Shine box outside the office. Many thanks.





Christmas Newsflash – November 2017

Important Christmas Dates for Your Diaries!

Important dates for your diaries OVER THE NEXT FEW FESTIVE WEEKS:

- **30th November – St Andrew's Day** – W/C 27th Nov – Remember to wear something tartan this week to celebrate ALL things Scottish! Scottish week!
- **30th November – Decoration time!** We will have great fun decorating the nursery from top to bottom with Christmas delights! We have gone totally MAD this year!
- **1st December – Frosty the KingsWellies Elf!** Look out for Frosty, our very own KingsWellies Elf! I am sure that he will be getting up to lots of mischief in and around KingsWellies as he helps Santa to get ready for Christmas day!
- **1st December – Advent!** The countdown begins!
- **Cash for Kids Mission Christmas 2017. We need all donations by Monday 4th December please** – We are collecting gifts and cash donations to support the less fortunate children in and around our local area. Please also remember teenagers (especially boys). The collection box is in our main corridor. Many thanks for your kind and generous donations.
- **4th December – Magic Santa Post Box!** Our Christmas post box will be open and waiting for your letters to Santa. Please post your Santa letter by 4th December so that Santa has time to reply!
- **4th December – Xmas jumper week ALL week!** Wear your Christmas jumpers and donate £1 to Cash for Kids Mission Christmas 2017. Come on Mums and Dads – we would love to see YOUR Christmas jumpers too!
- **9th December – International Xmas Card Day** – Designing, making, giving and receiving!
- **Tuesday 12th December – WellieBabies – Christmas Sing Song with Jo Jingles** – ALL babies and their parents are more than welcome to attend (even if you don't ordinarily attend on a Tuesday). The first performance will be at 10 am and the second at 2pm. Maximum of two adults per child please. You will be invited to attend one performance at either 10am or 2pm. Invites to come home soon.
- **Wednesday 13th December – WellieBeans – Christmas Performance 'Twelve Days of Christmas'** – ALL Pre-School children and their parents are more than welcome to attend (even if you don't ordinarily attend on a Wednesday). The first performance will be at 10 am and the second at 2pm. Maximum of two adults per child please. You will be invited to attend one performance at either 10am or 2pm. Invites to come home soon.
- **Thursday 14th December – WellieTots - Christmas Sing Song with Jo Jingles** – ALL toddlers and their parents are more than welcome to attend (even if you don't ordinarily attend on a Thursday). The first performance will be at 10 am and the second at 2pm. Maximum of two adults per child please. You will be invited to attend one performance at either 10am or 2pm. Invites to come home soon.
- **18th December – We will be having our Xmas lunch this day!**





- **Tuesday 19th December – WellieTots Christmas Party** and visit from Santa from 2-4pm. ALL toddlers are invited to attend! Remember to wear your party outfits!
- **Wednesday 20th December – WellieBabies Christmas Party** and visit from Santa from 9.30-11am. ALL babies are invited to attend! Remember to wear your party outfits!
- **Wednesday 20th December – WellieBeans Christmas Party** and visit from Santa from 2-4pm. ALL pre-school children are invited to attend! Remember to wear your party outfits!
- **Friday 22nd December – Nursery closes at 6pm and reopens at 7.30am on Monday 8th January 2018!**

Christmas Parties

ALL children are invited to attend their own Christmas party (even if they don't ordinarily attend on that day). Please email Aimee at aimee@kingswelliesnursery.com to advise her that your child will be attending. There is no need for parents to stay – please drop your child off and enjoy the peace and quiet for a wee while! **We really hope that ALL children will be able to attend and to meet Santa.**



Christmas Sing Songs

WellieBeans have been practicing their songs and are getting very good! Song words will be in each child's pigeon hole soon. Please collect these and practice at home too!

ALL children and their parents are invited to attend their own sing song. There is a limit of 2 adults per child please. You will be invited to attend one performance at either 10am or 2pm. Invites to come home soon. Parking is available at the nursery and overflow at the Park and Ride. Mince pies, shortbread and refreshments will be served by our mini waiters and waitresses afterwards.

Santa's Grotto

We may even have a secret Santa's grotto...



Lost Property

PLEASE take home your child's lost property! All lost property which has not been claimed by **Friday 15th December** will be donated to charity. Many thanks.

Thank you!

We are really looking forward to spending the next few weeks' together, making special and lasting Christmas memories! Thank you ALL for your ongoing support!

If you would like this newsletter or any other documentation from nursery translated in to another language or an alternate reading format, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stay and Play Evaluation

Child's Name.....

Room.....

Date attended.....

Event feedback:

Any other events you would like to attend at the nursery:

Parents signature:.....

Vision, Values and Aims

Our Vision

Positive, caring relationships based on trust and respect, are at the heart of our philosophy.

We have a clear vision of what we want to achieve at KingsWellies Nursery:

- to provide a safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment for your child
- to enable all children to develop their capabilities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.

KingsWellies Nursery: a place to learn, develop and grow 'happy healthy children'

Parents - Are We Getting These Right?

Our Values

We have a clear understanding of our values at KingsWellies Nursery:

- **HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING**
- **ENGAGEMENT** – being involved, responsive, interested and interesting
- **RESPECT** – promoting a culture of tolerance, inclusion, diversity, equality, fairness and opportunity
- **COMMUNICATION** – being genuine, open, honest and sincere
- **ACHIEVEMENT** – highest quality, high expectations
- **PARTNERSHIP AND CARE** – being reflective and learning from parents as partners, developing strong nurturing relationships
- **COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE**

Our Aims

At KingsWellies, we believe that every day is a learning day and that learning is all around us. As well as being a place of learning, we pride ourselves on ensuring that all children are coming in to a loving, caring environment where they are valued and listened to. We also involve children and parents in trying to continually improve.

At KingsWellies Nursery, we aim:

- to provide a safe, happy, caring, stimulating and secure environment for our children
- to engage our children in the highest-quality teaching and learning and to maximise success for all
- to develop a shared vision for the future of KingsWellies
- to foster high-quality leadership at all levels
- to work in partnership with other agencies and our communities to promote the welfare of our children
- to work together with parents as partners to improve learning and care
- to reflect on our work and fulfil our learning potential

- to value and empower our children and staff
- to promote well-being and respect
- to develop a culture of ambition and achievement.

KingsWellies aims are based around the **Ten Dimensions from 'Journey To Excellence'** by HMIE. These aims reflect our high aspirations and our commitment to excellence. Through effective teamwork, open lines of communication and in partnership with our parents, we will work towards the realisation of our vision, values and aims.

Our guarantee to you

At KingsWellies Nursery, you can be confident that:

- staff will actively promote our aims and values
- we have clear policies, procedures and codes of behaviour, which are consistently applied by staff and understood by staff, parents, carers and children
- you and your child will be consulted about the service provided and your views and ideas valued
- all children are happy, confident, safe and secure.

Turn Over and give us your ideas.



Parent Consultation

What do you like about
our nursery?

What could we do
better?

What do you think of the
nursery building?

Name _____

Date _____

Name: _____

Session: _____

KingsWellies Nursery Life Skills Awards – Blue Awards (Toddlers)

| Blue Award | Successful Learners | | Confident Individuals | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | Responsible Citizens | | Effective Contributors | |
| I can identify and put on my own jacket and shoes | I can listen and follow instructions | I can help to tidy up | I can confidently count to 10 | I am excited about moving to Pre-School |
| I feel confident in participating in new experiences with peers and teachers | I can complete an obstacle course using co-ordination and balance | I can tell when I need the toilet | I can identify my basic colours | I can identify my basic body parts (i.e. head, ears, nose, feet) |
| I can sing/say a basic Nursery song/rhyme | I can share nicely with my friends | I am starting to learn the concept of being a 'bucket filler' | I can wash my hands | I am aware of the room's basic routine |
| I usually have a healthy snack | I have visited places in the community | I can... | I can... | I can... |

Wow! You did it!

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Session: _____

KingsWellies Nursery Life Skills Awards – **Pink Award** (Anti-Pre)

| Pink Award | Successful Learners | | Confident Individuals | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | Responsible Citizens | | Effective Contributors | |
| I can identify the differences between healthy and unhealthy foods | I can put on my shoes and jacket and fasten them | I can share my toys nicely with my peers | I know when to wash my hands | I have role played a 'real life' situation |
| I can complete a 12 piece puzzle | I can find my name and put it on the register wall | I can look after my nursery bag and its contents | I can name and mix colours | I have visited places in the community |
| I can brush my own teeth | I can name shapes | I can fill my friends 'buckets' and know the importance of being a 'bucket filler' | I can confidently go to the toilet | I can join in nicely at group time and can contribute in conversation |
| I know the days of the week | I can talk about future and past experiences | I can cross roads safely | I can... | I can... |

Wow! You did it!

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Session: _____

KingsWellies Nursery Life Skills Awards – **Red Award** (Pre-School)

| Red Award | Successful Learners | | Confident Individuals | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| | Responsible Citizens | | Effective Contributors | |
| I can help prepare and taste different foods | I line up when asked | I can share my toys | I can cross the road safely | I have helped to grow a plant and know its basic parts |
| I'm polite to adults | I am excited about moving to school | I follow the nursery rules | I can work with numbers up to 10 | I have role played a work situation |
| I know my name and address | I can fasten and hang up my coat and change my shoes | I remember to put litter in the bin and recycle correctly | I can use scissors and glue | I can find information from pictures |
| I know how to stay safe when using electricity | I help to tidy up | I have helped a friend | I know what to do in an emergency, i.e. fire drill | I can take photos or record sound and images to show the world around me |
| I can describe interesting features in my local area | I can pick a healthy snack | I can recognise and handle money | I can fill all my friends 'buckets' | I can learn and discuss the seasons and days of the week |

Wow! You did it!

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Early Learning Opportunities

&

Play Policy

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Published | March 2015 (V1) |
| Reviewed | March 2016 (V2)/Sept 2017 (V3) |
| Revised | Session 2017/18 |



Early Learning Opportunities and Play Policy

Curriculum and Care

Daily life is bursting with many learning opportunities for your child right from the moment of birth. At KingsWellies Nursery, we believe that every day is a learning day. Even the most routine tasks can lead to learning which is not only enjoyable, but helps to give your child the very best start in life.

At KingsWellies Nursery we recognise that children learn in different ways and at different rates and we plan for this accordingly. Our aim is to support all children attending the nursery to attain their maximum potential within their individual capabilities.

We provide a very positive play environment for every child. This is to ensure that they have the opportunity to develop good social skills and an appreciation of all aspects of this country's multi-cultural society. We also plan learning experiences to ensure, as far as practical, there is equality of opportunity for all children and a celebration of diversity.

We maintain a personalised record of every child's development, showing their abilities, progress, interests and areas needing further staff or parental assistance.

Our staff will help your child to enjoy learning by:

- including your child in everyday tasks and making them fun!
- making opportunities for choices, taking responsibility, making decisions and solving problems.
- providing a safe and stimulating environment in which your child feels happy and secure.
- showing we are interested in your child's learning. We will ask questions, listen and give lots of praise when it is appropriate.
- using new and familiar words to extend and enrich your child's vocabulary, understanding and awareness of sounds and language development.
- showing your child how to play, share, take turns, make friends and develop positive relationships.
- providing stimulating and exciting opportunities to engage your child's interest and imagination both indoors and out.
- encouraging your child to reach their full potential!

Learning through play

Play is a fundamental part of childhood. Our role at KingsWellies is to enable and facilitate play. At KingsWellies, the principles of play will underpin and support all of our policies and programmes for our children. KingsWellies children will be able to experience high-quality, stimulating play experiences as part of their daily lives.

KingsWellies Nursery Programme

Each child at KingsWellies is involved in a broad, balanced curriculum suited to their individual needs, interest and stage of development. At some activity areas they will work on their own, at others in a small group or larger group, sometimes with an adult and sometimes without.

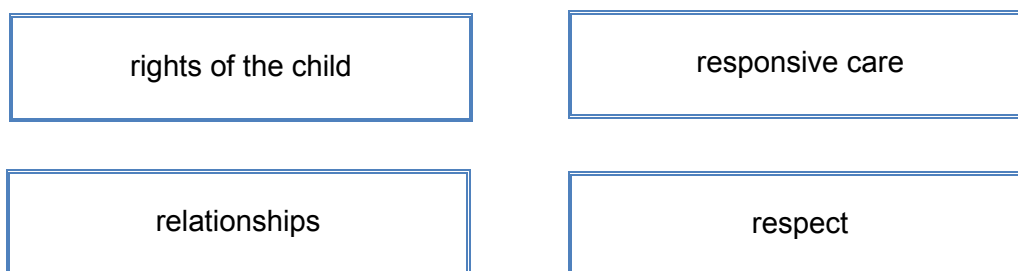
The children choose what they want to do and the adult supports their learning, ensuring that they have breadth and balance. By observing your child at free play and in a group situation, we are able to plan and provide appropriate models of play for each child's development.

It is our intention to assess all children in the nursery. We will use the information gathered from the assessments to review our curriculum so that it is targeted to meet the individual needs of your child.

Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families

KingsWellies Nursery will follow the national guidance set out in Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families, whilst working with our youngest children. This national guidance sets the contexts for high-quality care and education. It will also ensure a smooth and coherent transition for all children as they begin to engage with Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

The four key principles are:



At KingsWellies, each of our younger children will have a Key Person who will offer security, reassurance and continuity and who will be responsible for feeding, changing and comforting that child.

Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

Whilst at KingsWellies, your child will learn through Curriculum for Excellence which is the curriculum used throughout Scotland. The Early Level provides a framework for children's learning in the pre-school years and in Primary 1. Curriculum for Excellence places a strong emphasis on the development of health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy.

We implement the Curriculum for Excellence set by Education Scotland that sets standards to ensure all children learn and develop well. We support and enhance children's learning and development holistically through play-based activities.

We view all aspects of learning and development and ensure a flexible approach is maintained, which responds quickly to children's learning and developmental needs. We develop tailor-made activities based on observation which inform future planning of adult-led and child-initiated opportunities both indoors and outdoors.

We value child-led play and ensure we promote this through providing activities that are flexible, take account of ages, development needs and interests. We know that activities provided by staff will allow children to enjoy organised and free play including quiet times.

Health and wellbeing

At KingsWellies, health and wellbeing is about learning how to lead healthy and active lives, whilst becoming confident, happy and forming friendships and relationships with others that are based on respect.

Literacy

Literacy is an essential part of our everyday lives. It helps us to understand and interpret our world through what we hear, see, say, write and read. Early literacy skills start with babies discovering that they can communicate their needs through their first sounds, facial expressions and body language.

Numeracy

Numeracy is about counting and numbers as well as understanding measurement, money, weight, an awareness of time and how to handle information. It is important for simple tasks, from pairing your socks to paying for your shopping.

Other curricular areas

At KingsWellies Nursery, we will recognise the importance of health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy as key to building our curriculum. We will also focus on developing understanding of the expressive arts, religious and moral education, sciences, social studies and technologies.

Outdoor learning

At KingsWellies the children will be encouraged to get moving indoors and outdoors in all weathers. Learning to enjoy the outdoors in our Scottish climate will help the KingsWellies children to grow and develop into healthy and confident adults. A huge range of activities, resources and games will be provided in our large and unique outdoor play environment.

Nursery Curriculum

Our Nursery Curriculum is fully detailed within our KingsWellies prospectus and also within our curriculum policies.

With our children aged from 3-5 years, we follow the 'Curriculum for Excellence'. The Early Level provides a framework for children's learning in the anti-pre and pre-school years and in primary 1. The eight curricular areas are:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Literacy and Languages
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies and ICT

Building the Ambition

KingsWellies Nursery will also use the **National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare Building the Ambition (2014)** as our core guidance to support us in providing a seamless learning journey from birth to starting school.

We offer all of our children active learning experiences, regardless of age and stage by:

- Providing a safe and stimulating environment in which children feel happy and secure.
- Providing opportunities to engage the children's interest and imagination.
- Encouraging positive attitudes to self and others.
- Extending the children's abilities to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways.
- Encouraging children to reach their full potential.
- Focusing on the development of Literacy, Numeracy and health and Wellbeing skills during all learning opportunities.

During your child's time spent at KingsWellies Nursery, we aim to provide them with rich and varied opportunities to develop into successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

A variety of free-play areas will be set up in each playroom. These will include activities involving:

- Mark-making, drawing and writing
- Books, puppets and listening
- Puzzles and fine motor skill activities
- Building and construction
- Small world play
- Sensory and manipulative skills
- Number and maths
- Exploring and investigating
- Sand and water
- Creative area for painting, modelling, making woodwork, play dough
- Imaginative play including Kitchen and house area
- Music and drama
- Treasure baskets
- Loose materials play using everyday objects
- Interactive resources including smartboard and new technologies
- Cooking and baking
- Planting and growing
- Enterprise and problem solving
- Role play and dressing up

We acknowledge parents as primary educators and encourage parental involvement as outlined in our Parents and Carers as Partners Policy. We build strong home links in order to enhance and extend children's learning both within the nursery environment and in the child's home.

We share information about Curriculum for Excellence with parents and signpost them to further support via the following website:

www.educationscotland.gov.uk

Our guarantee to you

At KingsWellies, you can be confident that:

- staff are flexible and responsible to your child's personal, emotional, educational and physical needs
- we will provide your child with a range of rich and varied learning opportunities which will help them to develop into successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors
- your child will experience and choose from a wide range of high-quality programmes and activities that are planned, designed, evaluated and implemented by staff, taking account of national and local guidelines
- we will promote ambition and high expectations for every child within our care.

Policy on Play

Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises that every child has the right to rest and play and to have the chance to join a wide range of activities.

Introduction

KingsWellies Nursery recognises that play is central to the health and wellbeing of our children and to enjoyment in their lives. Access to high quality play opportunities leads to the development of confident young people better able to lead their own communities and make a full and active contribution to society.

This Play Policy makes a commitment to all children and young people in KingsWellies to support their right to play regardless of their needs, background or abilities. It acknowledges the significance of children's rights in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which was approved by the UK Government in December 1991 and adopted by Aberdeen City in 1996.

The purpose of the Play Policy is to improve the quality of current and future play opportunities in KingsWellies and establish links between play and other local and national policies and strategies.

KingsWellies' vision is to develop high quality innovative and inclusive services in partnership with the community, children and young people and all agencies involved in the delivery of play.

A key feature of this Play Policy is to work together with our existing and future partners to best meet the needs of children, families and communities.

KingsWellies will make a commitment to see, hear, listen and respond to children playing in our communities therefore encouraging healthy community activity with active and positive contributions from all generations.

The Play Policy shows the value of freedom to play in the lives of our children. It is our responsibility to ensure the freedom to play is a right upheld in KingsWellies.

Rationale

Play is an essential part of a happy, healthy childhood and; 'when children play their brains do two things: they grow and become organised and usable.' (Hughes 2013)

Furthermore, the right to play is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All children and young people should have play experiences as part of their daily lives. KingsWellies Nursery recognise the vital role of play in supporting children's learning and development. At KingsWellies, we aim to provide a wide variety of quality play experiences for our children.

Definition of Play

Play is the stimulus for physical, intellectual, emotional and social development – it is fundamental to human development. Children play for enjoyment and creative expression, but through play they learn about the world around them. Play is fun and is an essential part of everyone's life.

What is Play?

Play comes in many forms. It can be active, passive, solitary, independent, assisted, social, exploratory, educational or just for fun! Moreover, it can happen indoors or outdoors. It can be structured, creative, messy, entirely facilitated by the imagination, or can involve using the latest gadgets and technologies.

From the earliest days and months, play helps children to learn to move, share, negotiate, investigate, manipulate, take on board the points of view of others and cultivate many more skills. It remains equally important throughout infancy, childhood, the teenage years, through adolescence and beyond into adulthood. Play plays a crucial part at all ages, stages and abilities.

A Vision of Play

KingsWellies is a nursery where all children and young people are empowered to play, are encouraged to direct and define their own play spaces and have access to high quality play opportunities and resources.

KingsWellies is a great place to Play.

Significance of Play

In order to support children's play opportunities and promote the benefits of play within the context of their lives, it is important to understand that there are competing elements for children's leisure time and other challenges that can make play opportunities difficult to deliver, these include;

1. **The time spent on electronic games and watching television rather than active play.**
Children playing alone in front of an electronic device has become the norm for a generation. Research shows that children spend a much higher proportion of their time inactive than in years past. This has been linked to the rise in obesity in childhood – we seek to challenge this and promote children's imaginations as well as their physical and mental health and wellbeing by encouraging them towards active, preferably outdoor play.
2. **The importance of the suitability, attractiveness and children's feelings of "ownership" relating to where they play.**
Many play spaces are not clean nor attractive, and unfortunately some are unsafe. This makes getting to a quality, clean play space is difficult for many young people, parents and carers. Guidance states that children should be no more than 400m from local play area, however these can be of variable quality. Parents, children and communities should be supported to improve, develop and enjoy their play spaces.
3. **The weather.**
A shift in attitude towards the weather and outdoors is needed. This teamed with education and supported about obtaining and using appropriate outdoor clothing is part of making all weather outdoor play is more attractive. "There is no such thing as bad weather – only inappropriate clothing."

Play at KingsWellies Nursery

All learning environments need "free play". This is commonly defined as "behaviour that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated". This form of play has the potential to contribute powerfully and positively to some of the most significant areas of nursery, school and future life. At KingsWellies Nursery, we recognise that play supports the development of social skills and collaboration. It stimulates physical activity and the development of important physical competencies.

It encourages creativity, imagination and problem solving. When children have access to natural spaces for play, it fosters a sense of close connection with and respect for nature.

Learning through play is widely acknowledged as a key component of good practice in the early years, both indoors and outdoors. At KingsWellies Nursery, we use our outdoor and indoor space as well as the local area to provide children with opportunities for structured and free play activities.

In order to support play effectively, KingsWellies Nursery staff are sensitive about the timing and nature of interventions and interactions. We work with the children to ensure that they have the time, space and freedom to initiate, plan, lead and conclude their own play.

KingsWellies Nursery Play Policy Objectives

- * Provide play opportunities within the nursery that are accessible for all children, high quality, imaginative, challenging, well maintained and safe.
- * Ensure children and young people with disabilities have access to quality play opportunities.
- * Promote positive attitudes towards outdoor play in both adults and children.
- * Promote use of indoor and outdoor play areas, parks and open spaces.
- * Provide information to planners and developers so that play is considered during community planning.
- * Ensure that council policies and strategies support the development of play opportunities.
- * Consult and provide feedback to children and young people on play issues.
- * Ensure that relevant training and qualifications are available to those involved in play services.
- * Whenever appropriate, play opportunities should be delivered using partnership approaches which include, actively involve, local schools and communities.

Every day is a learning day

At KingsWellies Nursery, our philosophy is that 'every day is a learning day.' We recognise that daily life is bustling with many learning opportunities for your child right from birth. Through lots of high quality play opportunities, we will support our children to learn about the world, develop their interests, feel involved, and become engaged and happy..... And all the time, we will be making every day a learning day!

Curriculum for Excellence

Outcomes and Experiences that Relate to Play

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| I know that friendship, caring, sharing, fairness, equality and love are important in building positive relationships. As I develop and value relationships, I care and show respect for myself and others. HWB 0-05a | I am developing a sense of size and amount by observing, exploring, using and communicating with others about things in the world around me. MNU 0-01a | Throughout my learning, I share my thoughts with others to help further develop ideas and solve problems. TCH0-11a |
| I understand that people can feel alone and can be misunderstood and left out by others. I am learning how to give appropriate support. HWB 0-08a | I have experimented with everyday items as units of measure to investigate and compare sizes and amounts in my environment, sharing my findings with others. MNU 0-11a | Within real and imaginary settings, I am developing my practical skills as I select and work with a range of materials, tools and software. TCH 0-12a |
| I make full use of and value the opportunities I am given to improve and manage my learning and, in turn, I can help to encourage learning and confidence in others.HWB 0-11a | I have spotted and explored patterns in my own and the wider environment and can copy and continue these and create my own patterns.MTH 0-13a | Through discovery, natural curiosity and imagination, I explore ways to construct models or solve problems. TCH 0-14a |
| I value the opportunities I am given to make friends and be part of a group in a range of situations.HWB 0-14a | I enjoy exploring and playing with the patterns and sounds of language and can use what I learn. LIT 0-01a/Lit 0-11a/Lit 0-20a | Throughout my learning, I explore and discover different ways of representing my ideas in imaginative ways.TCH 0-15a |
| I am developing my understanding of the human body and can use this knowledge to maintain and improve my wellbeing and health. HWB 0-15a | As I listen and talk in different situations, I am learning to take turns and am developing my awareness of when to talk and when to listen. LIT 0-02a / ENG 0-03a | As I play and learn, I am developing my understanding of what is fair and unfair and why caring and sharing are important.RME 0-09a |
| I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible.HWB 0-16a | I have the freedom to choose and explore how I can use my voice, movement and expression in role play and drama.EXA 0-13a | As I explore stories, images, music and poems, I am becoming familiar with the beliefs of the world religions I am learning about.RME 0-04a |
| I know and can demonstrate how to keep myself and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations.HWB 0-17a | I use drama to explore real and imaginary situations, helping me to understand my world.EXA 0-14a | I make decisions and take responsibility in my everyday experiences and play, showing consideration for others.SOC 0-17a |
| I know and can demonstrate how to travel safely.HWB 0-18a | Working on my own and with others, I use my curiosity and imagination to solve design problems.EXA0-06a | Through everyday experiences and play with a variety of toys and other objects, I can recognise simple types of forces and describe their effects. SCN 0-07a |
| In everyday activity and play, I explore and make choices to develop my learning and interests. I am encouraged to use and share my experiences.HWB 0-19a | I explore and discover the interesting features of my local environment to develop an awareness of the world around me. SOC 0-07a | Through creative play, I explore different materials and can share my reasoning for selecting materials for different purposes. SCN 0-15a |
| I am learning to move my body well, exploring how to manage and control it and finding out how to use and share space.HWB 0-21a | I explore and appreciate the wonder of nature within different environments and have played a part for caring for the environment.SOC 0-08a | I am aware of my own and others' needs and feelings especially when taking turns and sharing resources. I recognise the need to follow rules. HWB 0-23A |
| I am developing my movement skills through practice and energetic play. HWB 0-22a | I am enjoying daily opportunities to participate in different kinds of energetic play, both outdoors and indoors.HWB 0-25a | |