

Linden Tree Nursery Schools Principles



Our LTNS principles enhance practice, give us purpose and support our relationships with children, families and colleagues. They are guided by the Froebelian principles which underpin how we design and deliver our curriculum.

Link, unity and connectedness

Everything links, to separate or compartmentalise can disrupt children's natural curiosity. Educators should find the unity in everything, understand what we all have in common and harness this to better understand the children and families within our nursery schools.

Importance of childhood in its own right

Childhood is not just preparation for adulthood. Childhood deserves to be respected and valued. Starting from where the child and family are. Understanding what makes them unique and building on this is the most reliable starting point.

Nature, sustainability and the community

Being conscious of our impact on the natural world should be the foundation of decision making. How we are contributing positively to the community and wider world has moral and ethical considerations. The communities in which the nursery schools reside must be understood to effectively connect to them.

Talk, play and the power of symbols

Children learn through play, exploration and repetition. They need to be given the time to explore in a safe and secure environment which recognises and supports the benefits of symbolic representation. Educators should use symbols such as print in the forms of words and numbers and role play props to embrace the use of symbols as a tool for learning.

Relationships matter

Building good, supportive relationships is the foundation for success. Educators should ensure they develop trusting relationships with families and children as well as with their colleagues and any outside agencies. When relationships are nurtured and valued everyone benefits.

Empowerment through free choice and movement

Giving children choice during the day builds their sense of self-worth and allows them to take control of their actions. Routines and boundaries are important, but they should not overshadow a child's need to freely explore activities. Making time for children to move their whole bodies, in ways that are comfortable for them, is important as it lays the foundation for a healthy emotional and mental future.

Equality, equity and celebrating diversity

All staff, children and families have the right to thrive in a safe and secure environment where they are valued for who they are and where they come from. At Linden Tree we accept and support everyone, as we celebrate our differences and recognise the power in harnessing them.

Deeply significant learning through first-hand experiences

Children learn best when they experience life holistically. This means that children need to be able to experience things first hand, with their whole body and senses to begin to make sense of the world around them. Linking the curriculum to events in children's lives, such as the seasons, becoming a sibling, moving house etc. Things that are happening now are more effective at developing learning and supporting children's emotional development of these events.

Enriching and inspiring environments

The way the environment is set up, what resources it holds and what educators are there dictates the learning that takes place. We must ensure the environment is suitable for the needs and abilities of each child. It should be carefully equipped with resources that will support and inspire learning as well as reflect and celebrate the children and families who attend.

Nurturing, knowledgeable educators

Educators must be able to understand how to interact with the children, family and the indoor and outdoor provision to guide children's learning in meaningful ways. Educators should have a deep understanding of child development specifically for children from birth to 5 years old. Educators should make it their task to understand and care for each child as they are and not try to get them to a place where they think they should be.

