



HOW WE SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

A Guide for Parents

All Early Years settings in the UK are required to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework. This document sets the standards that must be met to ensure that children:

- ✓ learn and develop well
- ✓ are kept healthy and safe
- ✓ have the knowledge and skills they need to start school

You will find further information about the areas of learning in the EYFS in the document 'Early Years Foundation Stage Framework Information for Parents and Carers' in your parent pack.

At Little Learners, we deliver the EYFS using the In the Moment Planning approach. In contrast to the traditional cycle of observation, reflection and planning, this method can give instant results and requires less paperwork, which can take staff away from interacting with the children. Instead of identifying 'Next Steps' to take at a later date, actions are taken right there in the moment and the whole process is then documented.

We've adopted this approach because it's centred on the idea that **children have a natural curiosity and desire to learn.**

The key to successful In the Moment Planning is allowing children the **freedom to explore their own interests**, rather than results-focused activities which have been provided for them, and therefore increasing their engagement.

This increased engagement is linked to enhanced brain development as they develop their own responses to different challenges. They are **in charge of their own learning** and the staff facilitate this.

By spending more time with staff in these moments, children are more likely to **feel supported to become more effective learners.**

The method can be broken down into 3 stages:

- The Child's Spark - noticing when a child first shows an interest in something
- The Teachable Moment - a staff member notices this interest and starts an open-ended dialogue with the child, as well as thinking of ways this interest can be applied to other areas of learning
- The Documentation - the observation and steps taken are recorded.

It's important to emphasise that for this method to be effective, staff must observe the children closely. It's a valuable skill to know when to approach a child and how to intervene effectively. With this in mind, all of our childcare staff are trained in how to implement In the Moment Planning and we have regular team discussions with the aim of continuously improving the process.

If you have any questions about the EYFS or our methods of delivery at Little Learners, please do get in touch.