Supporting children with additional languages

At Tinkerbells Day Nursery, we recognise the fact that a child may enter our setting who is already developing one or more languages and is now adding English to the list will need extra space and time, patience and support. We acknowledge and celebrate the skills they have in their home language as we believe this promotes confidence in their own abilities and raises their self-esteem. We invite parents to share their home language and cultural background with the practitioners who are caring for their child and they are invited to provide a list of key words and phrases or translations of these, to assist the child’s transition into Nursery. We recognise and reassure parents that their children will benefit if they use, maintain and develop their ‘home’ language and we encourage them to spend time in this interaction with their child. Where applicable videos of key words, phrases and favourite stories, told in the child’s home language can be played on the nursery’s tablets or laptops.

Children who share the same home language are encouraged and enabled to spend time together in the nursery to communicate. Practitioners will ensure that they make their teaching as visual as possible through the provision of pictorial and additional resources to assist EAL children and to enable them to fully access the inclusive learning environment. Practitioners will ensure that they use gestures, facial expressions and explanatory actions together with the use of objects to explain each part of an activity.

Upon entry the nursery’s designated EAL co-ordinator will ensure the family is welcomed by the relevant room leader and the child’s key person who seek to find out as much as possible about the child and their individual needs. This includes details such as their correct name and pronunciation, dietary needs, dress code and previous early years setting experience. The EAL co-ordinator will also ensure that the nursery’s administrator will offer support and
assistance to the child’s parents in completing the nursery’s enrolment forms and that the languages spoken in the child’s home environment is also recorded. In order to continue to effectively liaise with the family the EAL co-ordinator will make sure that they receive information and newsletters in a form that is accessible to them and that they are able to communicate their views and concerns to the nursery staff without difficulty.

** This policy is reviewed annually **