

Staff Development and Training

EYFS: 3.20 – 3.26

At Start Well Learning we value our staff highly. We believe that personal and professional development is essential for maintaining the delivery of high-quality care and learning for children in their early years. It underpins all aspects of positive interactions and activities planned for children.

In the interests of the setting, the children, their families and the individual we give every staff member the opportunity to develop their skills to their maximum and to broaden their knowledge and skills in caring for children. High-quality professional supervision is provided, based on individual performance related targets, consistent and sharply focused observation and evaluations of the impact of staff's practice.

We ensure that 80% of staff are qualified to Level 3 (or equivalent) or above in childcare and education or Early Years Educator. Other staff working at the nursery will either be qualified to Level 2 or undertaking training. Where necessary staff will be supported to achieve GCSE grade C and above in Maths and English for the completion of the Early Years Educator.

We strongly promote continuous professional development and all staff are encouraged to enhance their skills and expertise, which are based on discussions at supervision meetings and appraisal meetings.

To facilitate the development of staff we:

- Coach, mentor, lead and offer encouragement and support to achieve a high level of morale and motivation
- Promote teamwork through ongoing communication, involvement and a no blame culture to enhance the setting's practice
- Provide opportunities for delegation based on skills and expertise to offer recognition and empower staff
- Encourage staff to contribute ideas for change within the setting and hold regular staff meetings to develop these ideas. Regular meetings are also held to discuss strategy, policy and activity planning
- Encourage staff to further their experience and knowledge by attending relevant external training courses
- Encourage staff to pass on their knowledge to those who are less experienced and share knowledge from external training with small groups of staff within the setting
- Provide in-house training relevant to the needs of the nursery
- Carry out regular bi-monthly supervision meetings with all staff. These provide opportunities for staff to discuss any issues particularly concerning children's development or well-being, identify solutions to address issues as they arise and receive coaching to improve their personal effectiveness. Staff appraisals are carried out annually where objectives and action plans for staff are set out, while also identifying training needs according to their individual needs

- Develop a training plan that sets out the aims and intended outcomes of any training, addressing both the qualification and continuous professional development needs of the setting and individual staff
- Carry out training need analyses for all individual staff, the team as a whole, and for the setting annually
- Promote a positive learning culture within the setting
- Carry out evaluations of training events and use these to evaluate the training against the aims set to enable the development of future training programmes to improve effectiveness and staff learning
- Provide inductions to welcome all new staff and assign a 'work buddy' to coach, mentor and support new staff
- Offer ongoing support and guidance