



Cornerstone Nurseries Policy regarding disadvantaged children

An excerpt from OFSTED's publication "Unknown children - destined for disadvantage" ...

A child's earliest years from their birth to the time they reach statutory school age, are crucial. All the research shows that this stage of learning and development matters more than any other. If we get them right, we pave the way for a lifetime of achievement. If we get them wrong, we miss a unique opportunity to shape a child's future.

What do we mean by disadvantage?

Disadvantage is a complex issue which can affect children from birth & left unchecked & unchallenged can impact negatively on every aspect of a child's life.

The driving force is often poverty which can then influence the quality of parenting and home experiences. Disadvantages can have a long term effect on generation after generation within a family. Ensuring there is opportunity to improve the quality of health, home and educational experiences of the youngest children can reverse this long-term cycle of deprivation.

It should be appreciated that there are children living in circumstances such as those pinpointed in the list below who have a loving home environment with varied opportunities and achieve successful outcomes, however from looking at various data sources including those shown in the ofsted publication mentioned above. Cornerstone Nurseries recognise the following factors to be crucial in considering disadvantage in no particular order....

- Children from Single parent (divorced, separated, bereaved families) or lone parent families.
- Families on a low income or considered to be living in poverty.
- Families with teenage parents
- Large families
- Families with known substance abuse or alcohol abuse problems
- Homelessness - this includes families who have no fixed accommodation, living with extended family members or friends.
- Transient families - including traveller communities
- Asylum Seekers
- Families with domestic abuse/violence/threatening behaviour.
- Families where Children have a parent in the armed forces.

- Families with Special, Educational Needs and/or disability (S.E.N.D)
- Families to whom English is an additional language (E.A.L)
- Looked after children (L.A.C) children being cared for by someone other than their parents.

The impact of being disadvantaged

As stated, the first five years in a child's life are crucial in establishing the way in which children think, learn and behave. In particular between birth and the age of three years. To be educationally or developmentally 'behind' before the age of starting statutory school can predispose children to a difficult struggle for the rest of their formal education.

We recognise that the gaps are often wider in individual areas of learning, in particular, speech and language, literacy and reading and mathematics

What will we do?

Cornerstone Nurseries endeavour to ensure that key information including early years assessments are shared promptly with relevant outside agencies especially at points of transition, so that the needs of the most disadvantaged children are known quickly.

We will get to know our families as soon as they start with us at the setting and seek out/pin-point assistance from use of funding support or outside agencies where appropriate as well as targeted support from our staff team and educational facilities where appropriate.

With regards to funding, Cornerstone Nurseries will ensure that we regularly review our usage of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) to ensure that support is focused on improving those areas of development which will help to narrow the gaps in attainment.

We are not blinkered however in thinking that financial assistance is the only sign of disadvantage or that financial support will solve all problems for families who attend our settings. Our Management teams and practitioners will actively seek out families we feel could benefit from further support and look to target this support in whichever way it is required to give the best possible outcomes.

Cornerstone Nurseries endeavour to develop strong working relationships with external professionals in order to provide a 'joined up service' crucial to tackling disadvantage

Cultural Capital

The OFSTED Early Years Inspection handbook (May 2019) defines Cultural Capital as...

*The essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success. It is about giving children the best possible start to their early education. As part of making a judgement about the quality of education inspectors will consider how well leaders use the curriculum to enhance the experience and opportunities available to children, **particularly the most disadvantaged.***

Some children arrive at an early years setting with different experiences from others in their learning and play. What a setting does through its EYFS curriculum and interactions with practitioners, potentially makes all the difference for children. It is the role of the setting to help children experience the awe & wonder of the world in which they live, through the seven areas of learning.

Cornerstone Nurseries follow the EYFS curriculum guidance alongside the ethos of The Curiosity Approach, The Curiosity Approach is a modern day approach to Early Childhood. Taking parts from Reggio, Steiner, Te Whāriki and a little Montessori, the foundation of which lies on giving children rich experiences of awe and wonder with real and meaningful experiences and beautiful resources to enhance and inspire their natural curiosity.

Alongside In the Moment Planning, Our staff teams are trained to look for a spark in a child's interest and provide what's required in terms of resources in order to create a "teachable moment". We use the online learning journal "Tapestry" to record these observations and keep a detailed log of children's progress. Our 'key people' will then look for gaps in attainment and plan provocations to learning or "invitations to play" in order to ensure these outcomes are met.

Cornerstone Nurseries have the same ambitions for almost all children to achieve and children with particular needs such as SEND still have an ambitious curriculum to succeed in learning.

The below is an excerpt from our Company Vision & Mission Statement...

Our company vision statement

Our company vision is to be the most reliable, affordable and caring nursery in the Basingstoke area. Creating memories and a strong foundation of education for all children who use our services. Our nurseries aim to be a "home from home" care experience for all children and their families every day.

Our company mission statement

At Cornerstone Nurseries, our mission is to provide quality child care which is flexible to the needs of today's families whilst remaining affordable to all.

We aim to do this across 2019 through moving towards the Curiosity Approach to environments and children's learning in safe, secure environments which are clean and plentiful in authentic resources and in space, alongside access to fabulous outdoor provision.

Our team regard our settings as a "Home from Home" and work always with this in mind.

Our mission is to build on children's existing knowledge with meaningful experiences and carefully selected activities developed in the moment for children as individuals, alongside freedom of choice and exploratory curiosity play which can be carefully extended and enjoyed

together enthusiastically, keeping the children's enjoyment and well being as central in everything we do.

Our staff aim to provide a caring atmosphere where children feel welcomed and nurtured and free to be themselves safe in the knowledge that we are inclusive to the needs of all children every day, recognising what makes children and families individual and celebrating these differences together.

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