



Ethos & Curriculum

Our ethos

All staff at Foxcubs Day Nursery are committed to recognise that every child is a unique, competent learner from birth, who can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured. We recognise the importance of positive relationships within a child's world and know that a loving environment where children can feel safe and respected is paramount to the healthy development of their wellbeing. The staff are trained in creating a communication friendly environment and base this on the interests of the children making it an exciting, stimulating and adventurous place to be. Staff know that every child is different and that each child will learn in different ways and at a different pace.

They will go above and beyond to make sure the needs of the children and their families are met.

Settle in and become a confident learner

At Foxcubs, we aspire to ensure all children are supported in their transitions, they settle into their new rooms and become a confident learners during their time here. We will provide endless opportunities for children to explore and extend on their interests and knowledge. Foxcubs is a home from home where they can take the first steps of their lives and start to learn who they want to be.

Professional love

All children need and deserve to have their emotional needs met whilst in the care of the Foxcubs staff. Our role is to nurture, enable and value children, respecting that each child is unique, joining us with different experiences and needs. Parents and carers need to know that when their child is away from them, they will be safe and loved. Staff will treat children as their own and show professional love to each child. Foxcubs is a small home from home environment and will offer all children the individual care that they need.

All children will feel safe, seen, listened too and understood, no matter their age or communication abilities so they can thrive.

Quality interactions

The staff at Foxcubs will provide rich, broad and ambitious learning opportunities for the children at Foxcubs ensuring every day is a different adventure.

The environments will be set out to support children's curiosity and interests, giving them multiple opportunities for play and learning and allowing them the freedom of choice, with staff that can lead or support play and knowing when to take part or let them lead us.

Communication with parents / carers

All staff know the importance of parental and carer input and know that their contribution to the children's learning is paramount. Through verbal conversations, memos, photos and videos through Tapestry, staff will make sure that all parents & carers are included in their child's learning journey at Foxcubs.

Cultural Capital

Here at Foxcubs Day Nursery we believe that each child should be given the best possible start to their early education. We understand that each child arrives at Foxcubs with their own individual and unique life experiences. We want to make sure that all children are experiencing the wonders of the world in which they live, through the 7 areas of learning and it is up to us as practitioners to fill in the gaps to experiences they may not have at home.

Parents are asked to fill in a questionnaire with as much information as they can to enable us to find out more about the background of each child and what they do at home and how they live. We can then fill in the gaps to their learning and give them experiences they may not find elsewhere.

Our Curriculum & Pedagogy

Our curriculum ensures that we promote learning, development & personal growth in all children and for them to become independent, confident, reflective, creative and resilient learners. We strive to instil a love for learning and knowledge

We will provide exciting new experiences, following the children's lead, extending on their interests to enable them to get involved and develop their own next steps of learning. We will introduce and scaffold new vocabulary and each member of staff will be effective co-regulators to support each child. Through-out everything, we want children to take pride in themselves, build on their self-efficacy and their achievements and have respect and empathy for others, where friendships can grow.

We will teach patience, self-regulation and the encouragement of sharing and turn taking. We will ensure we encourage independence, resilience and confidence and support them to have their own ideas, problem solve and think critically about things. Let them be inquisitive and not afraid to try something new, giving them the confidence to 'have a go' and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties.

Curiosity approach

At Foxcubs, we follow the children's lead and provide a 'curiosity approach' to allow the children to follow their own lines of enquiry through play.

Our environment offers plenty of choice for children to explore and learn, whether it's to learn something new or extend and deepen current knowledge. By offering an environment where there is an array of opportunities, with competent educators to support them, children will broaden their minds, vocabulary and experiences through play. These opportunities will ensure that children are able to access that deeper concentration, and can complete full play cycles lasting up to 45 minutes. Staff need to ensure that they can recognise this and not interrupt important play cycles.

Every experience is a learning opportunity.

The Staff of Foxcubs will:

- Follow each child's line of enquiry individually, based on their interests, topics, cultural capital and stories.
- Plan in the moment and ensure they follow the child's line of enquiry when they bring in an idea or experience from home.
- Ensure the activities planned throughout the day are curious, challenging, innovative, exciting, engaging and know the outcome of learning they are looking for, but also allowing children to follow their own lines of enquiries.
- Challenge/ deepen children's thinking
- Use sustained shared thinking to help children open their minds to thoughts and ideas.
- Use effective praise and a positive approach to their teaching.
- Are 'present' in the child's play and know when to join in or take a step back and offer support if needed.
- Allow children time to have free schematic play.
- Role model play and communication, encourage the children to learn through repetition and praise, teaching them new and exciting vocabulary every day.
- Support children by co-regulating their emotions..
- Be confident in using the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning (CofETL) and recognise how a child plays and learns, and plan for them appropriately.
- Follow the targets on My Plans and My Plan+ to ensure SEN children are striving and supported.

Ultimately, our curriculum outcomes are not a tick list, but achievable milestones that all children can work towards in their own pace and abilities.

Last reviewed	May 2025
Next review	May 2026
Notes:	New ethos and curriculum