

English as an Additional Language Policy and Procedure

Clowns Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

At Clowns we want to ensure that our provision matches the development and learning needs of all our children. It is important we do not underestimate the knowledge and understanding of children learning English as an additional language.

To give these children the best opportunities we:

- Understand the importance of valuing a child's home language.
- aim to provide resources such as stories and books in the child's home language.
- Practitioners will learn key words.
- Practitioners who share a home language with a child will converse with them offering guidance, support and reassurance.
- Practitioners understand and acknowledge the importance and benefit of children conversing together in their home language.
- Practitioners will keep cognitive challenges appropriately high with verbal support.
- will provide additional support using illustrations and props to enhance learning experiences and support understanding.
- acknowledge children go through a 'silent phase' when learning a new language. Children usually understand more than they can say.
- We understand that children should not feel under pressure to respond verbally to an adult until they feel confident to do so. However, practitioners will continue to talk to children with an expectation they will respond.
- Practitioners will spend individual time with children to develop their understanding and language skills.
- Parents are welcomed into the nursery and given the opportunity to share in their child's learning experience of reading or singing in their home language by participating in our Secret Storyteller initiative, sharing their traditions and festivals or simply participating when and where they can.
- Resources and equipment in the enabling environment reflect the different languages spoken in the room and the children's cultural heritage. For example, empty food containers in the home corner contain print that reflect the children's home languages, alphabet mats displayed in the mark making area/ book corner reflect languages spoken in the room.

By giving children space, time, our patience and support, thoughtful provision, and acknowledgement of their skills in their home language it will in turn give them confidence to achieve in English. Children are, after all, natural linguists.

(Taken from Supporting Children learning English as an Additional Language; Primary National Strategy).

At Clowns we have created English as an Additional Language resource boxes containing books, visual aids, posters, and other materials to use in supporting children with EAL. The boxes will be updated with new resources and individualised to the children in each class as necessary.