

## **English as an Additional language Policy**

At Trinity TreeTots nursery we respect all of the children and families who attend our setting. We make time and take care to acknowledge and understand their differing cultural backgrounds. We know that children learn best when they are able to make connections between experiences and ideas that are related to any aspect of their life in their community, home and nursery setting.

In order to support our children for whom English is an additional language we:-

- Do not make any assumptions due to particular linguistic, cultural, social or ethnic background.
- Record cultural and religious information upon admission including diet, customs, festivals and worship.
- Find out which language(s) our children speak at home, with whom and in what context and their abilities in using and understanding their home language.
- Build secure links between home and our setting. We want our families to feel comfortable, respected, valued and included. We know that all children are unique and their individual needs are different. So we liaise with parents/carers and family members to find out as much about their child as possible – about family life, likes and dislikes, experiences so far and the child's prior learning. This gives us a starting point to build on.
- Know it is equally important for families to get to know us and have a sense of belonging in our setting. So we invite them to join us for stay and play sessions.
- Create non-threatening relaxed spaces where children feel secure to experiment with their developing language skills.
- Use lots of visual resources such as puppets, photographs etc to convey meaning and support their understanding.
- Use stories, books, songs and rhyme to support language learning, explore a range of ideas, feelings and to link ideas.
- Keep our routines consistent so that our children know what's coming next.

### **The Importance of Home Language**

We know that children learning English as an additional language learn best when their home language is well supported and continues to develop at home and in the nursery setting. We reassure parents/carers that English can be learned in addition to the language skills already learned and being developed within their language community.

We provide a language enriched environment and provide opportunities and resources in which children can use their home language in play and in learning. We provide opportunities for them to learn and reach a good standard in English language through the delivery of our curriculum.

We reassure parents/carers when children are initially quiet (this could last for some time) we know that this is not usually cause for concern as learning will be taking place.

If a child appears to be having difficulty in grasping English language we will explore (with parents/carers) the child's skills in their home language to establish whether there is cause for concern due to language delay.

Children will never be put under pressure to speak until they feel confident. Our children are encouraged to use whatever language they feel comfortable with and we respond positively to any non-verbal communication.