

## What makes us special?

Who are we and why are we working in Early Years?



### Getting the right start in life

- It is well document that the first 1000 days of a child's life is incredibly important.
- It is where the foundations are built for their future health and well-being.
- The research tells us this in detail, notably the <u>The Health and Social Care Committee</u> <u>First 1000 Days of Life Report</u>
- Our overarching philosophy helps us get this right as you will see on the next slide.
- We will then move onto to seeing what our team say about it, and why we can produce an environment, and enact a pedagogy, that makes learning and development inevitable.



## Our Four Pillars of Pedagogy (4POP)

#### Reassuring Relationships

• Everything starts with your relationships. We prioritise relationships with the children, families and each other to help us get to know one another and better understand how to support individual needs.

#### Clear Communication

• Communication is often the source and solution of all challenges. We focus on a culture of openness, challenge and support to ensure we help one another to develop and be the best we can be for the children in our care.

#### Continuous Curiosity

• We must be curious, not judgmental. We pride ourselves and being attentive to our children and team, always wondering why something is happening both positive and where support is needed. We then act with evidence-informed approaches to respond to the unique situations we face.

#### Enabling Environments

• The environment is everything we see, hear, smell and touch in our environment and this includes all the adults too. By recognising this we ensure everything in our environment is there with a purpose. From the real glasses and bowls to the loose parts, to support learning.



We asked the team...

What does it mean to you to work in the Early Years?

They said....



Shaping the next generation.

Bringing positive energy.

Working as a team to create activities for the children to enjoy.

Experiencing magic everyday and making special bonds with the children.

Helping children to feel comfortable and happy in their learning environment.

To be a positive part of a child's learning journey.

Making an impact on children's lives and helping them grow.

Making an impact on children's learning and growth especially with children with additional needs.

Helping children to develop and reach milestones.

Be part of children's lives and am able to give back to society.

I love helping children to settle through love, kindness and care which helps them to trust and bond.

Working together to explore children's interests to develop their learning through engaging activities.

Giving something back to the community while shaping the next generation.



Experiencing magic everyday by watching and helping them grow.

To be a positive part of a child's learning journey by helping them to develop and reach milestones.

Enhancing children's learning and making them feel safe on their environments.

Promoting learning and independence in early years children in a safe and fun environment.

Helping children to share experiences in differentiated environments.

Promoting nurture learning and sensory exploration.

A rewarding job that positively influences the younger generation.

Being part of a child's growth and holistic development.

Safeguarding the children and yourself through playing, caring and sharing.

Building meaningful relationships



Exploring children's interests to further their learning in an engaging way.

Helping children to share experiences.

Teaching children about the wider world and its importance.

Supporting children's progress throughout the years.

To see the growth in the children.

Supporting the process from initial contact until their last day with us.

Being part of children's learning journey.

To be part of a team and part of children's learning, and to have fun!

Shaping minds through play, learning and development.

To be part of helping the children grow and learn.

Learning everyday.

Helping children's skill improvement.

Providing a good environment.



We arrived at four summarising statements...



1. To be a positive part of shaping the next generation while helping them develop and reach milestones and give something back to the community.

2. Enhancing children's learning everyday through experiencing the magic of helping them grow.

3. To be a positive part of shaping the next generation while helping them reach milestones and give something back to the community.

4.Promoting nurture through collaboration. Inspiring learning through sensory exploration and children's interests.



# So, in summary, what does it mean to us to work in the Early Years at Always Growing?

Empowering the next generation by fostering growth, inspiring learning through sensory exploration, and nurturing their potential—everyday shaping their journey, reaching milestones, and giving back to the community with purpose and passion.

At Always Growing, we believe the early years are the most important years of a child's life — the time when curiosity, confidence, and character begin to take root. This isn't just something I say as an educator; it's something I feel deeply as a parent. Two of my own boys have grown up through this nursery, and before long, our youngest will too. I've experienced, first-hand, the difference it makes when children are surrounded by care, curiosity, and a sense of belonging.

That's why I'm so passionate about early years education, not only here in the UK but around the world. Wherever I've worked, I've seen that when children feel safe, loved, and inspired, they flourish.

We're special because we combine that heartfelt understanding of what family's need with the best research, experience, and creativity. We prepare fresh, nutritious meals in-house, we champion the power of play, and we invest in our educators so they can give each child the thoughtful attention they deserve.

Your child will thrive with us because we see them as an individual. We'll nurture their curiosity, build their confidence, and work alongside you to make their early years truly special, a strong start for a bright future.

Dr Lewis Fogarty, Co-Director of Always Growing



