St. Conor's P.S.
Nursery Curriculum Overview

In St.Conor's Nursery Unit we aim to plan play based learning activities which are relevant to lives, varied, challenging and engaging. Every child grows and develops in interrelated areas which are identified through the six curriculum areas:

- The Arts
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development and Movement
- The World Around Us

Inside the children will have access to the following areas:
Water, Sand, Jigsaws, Block room and Construction, Home Corner/Role Play, Writing Area, Paint and Art Area, Snack Table, Interest table, Play Dough/Clay,
Reading Area/Cosy Book Area, Listening Centre/IPad/Touch Screen Computer

Outside the children will have access to the following areas:
Sand, Water, Mud Kitchen/Digging Area, Garden Area, Art area, Music Area, Ball Play, Large Construction, Trikes/Scooters, Cosy Book Area, Home corner/Role Play, Artificial Grass Area

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The staff at St.Conor's Nursery actively promote opportunities for the children to engage in meaningful, natural two-way conversations to enhance the children's rapidly growing vocabulary and early acquisition of language. Children are encouraged to listen more effectively and to interact with their peers. A variety of activities develop their questioning, reasoning and prediction skills. Children will become more aware of print around them and our writing centre stimulates early mark making. We provide books and borrowing kits for children to read/share at home. Adults and children participate in daily story and rhyme time either in small groups or with the whole class. We also work closely with Speech and Language Therapists.

EARLY MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES

Mathematical concepts are important for everyday life and they should develop naturally and in a fun way for young children. In the Nursery the children are encouraged to problem solve at their developmental pace through one-to-one support or by working in small groups of children. Through fun filled activities such as sand and water play the children happily learn early mathematical concepts such as full, empty, more or less.

Children have access to a wide variety of everyday resources in the maths area and can independently choose tasks which will strengthen mathematical concepts. By reciting poems, finger rhymes and singing songs the children learn to count in a fun, educational way. The staff will monitor the children's progress in all areas of the curriculum through regular and systematic classroom observations. From these observations the staff collectively evaluate the play provision and plan their level of support for the children's progression.

WORLD AROUND US

The Nursery children enjoy the benefit of a spacious outdoor area. We aim to have the indoor curriculum outdoors and that there is natural, fun learning opportunities to embrace all around us. There are a wide variety of resources outdoors used across the seasons. We try to get outdoors in all weather conditions. We are lucky to have a mud kitchen and other areas including: sand pit, music area, art area, small world area, trike track and grass area.

Indoors we have an interest table which the children can add to across the seasons. They help to care for plants and caterpillars. The children feed the birds, watch for birds building nests in the nest boxes, go on mini-beast hunts and seasonal walks and enjoy sweeping and gathering leaves during Autumn. There is also a selection of natural wooden toys.

Through topics children become aware of people who help us, keeping safe, the seasons, festivals, healthy eating etc

THE ARTS

The Nursery curriculum provides the children with opportunities for creativity through painting, drawing, clay, dough, 3D model making, music, drama, story-telling and role play. The Nursery children are encouraged to dress up and take on different roles linked to topics eg Space, the Post Office. They also perform an Easter Show for their parents/carers family and friends.

The staff provide parents with regular song and rhyme sheets to encourage family involvement. Imaginative play also extends to small world resources and the nursery is well equipped with a variety of figures and puppets. The art area is well stocked, provided lots of colours, textures, shapes, tools etc

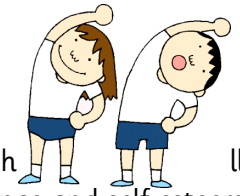
PDMU

In St.Conor's Nursery Unit we aim to support each individual child through his/her personal, social and emotional development. Good personal, social and emotional development gives children the best opportunity for success in other areas. Through our observations and interactions, we aim to establish positive relationships. This is fostered through activities such as our settling in routine in September, our effective behaviour management strategies, good routines, Circle Time, Puppet Time and good links with home.

We feel that all children need achievable challenges so that they have positive experiences, thus learning to regard themselves as capable and successful. Our home-school partnership also contributes to the personal, social and emotional development of each individual child. Through this partnership we work together to make each child happier, secure, confident and independent.

The children are encouraged in self-help skills such putting on their coat and zipping it up, washing their hands, getting their snack and tidying up.

PE



In St.Conor's Nursery Unit the staff promote physical development through various activities. Skilful involvement by the staff in the children's play and other planned activities and routine activities will ensure th ll develop their physical capabilities. Physical develop helps children to gain confidence and self-esteem and enables them to feel healthy and active. Observations and planning provide a wide variety of cross curricular tasks to develop fine and gross skills across the school year.

We also access the PE Hall availing of the full extensive range of PE equipment and at times activities offered by outside agencies.

Fine motor skills are linked to early mark making and emerging writing skills. We have a well-stocked writing centre with real life tools.

RELIGION

Children learn about God through stories, poems, art and music.
They are involved in seasonal festivals and help prepare for Christmas, St.Brigid's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter etc