



Rich fields of learning



Nursery Session Times

Morning Session: 9am – 12pm

Afternoon Session 1pm – 3.15pm

Full Nursery Day: 9am – 3.15pm

At Butterknowle nursery we aim to create a learning environment that is exciting, challenging, safe, happy and nurturing. We want to help every child to achieve all that they can, both in their learning and in their development into independent and confident young people. Our children take part in a range of learning activities, such as listening to stories, learning Letters and Sounds, counting and measuring, singing and making music, drawing and painting, outdoor learning and PE, along with a lot of free play through continuous provision. Our children learn through a combination of child-led and adult-led activities. There are three specific types of learning:

- **Playing and exploring** investigating and experiencing things, and 'having a go'
- **Active learning:** concentrating and persevering if they encounter difficulties and enjoying their achievements.
- **Creating and thinking critically:** developing their own ideas, making links between ideas, and developing strategies for doing things

In nursery we follow planned overarching themes, and we also follow the children's interests through 'in the moment planning'.

At circle time we learn phonics using Letters and Sounds which concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonics when they go into Reception.

Each week we focus on a number of the week. Through following this approach, we can really help to deepen the children's understanding of numbers and develop their 'number sense'. We explore different aspects of the number, for example recognizing the number, spotting things that show that number e.g. 'I have two eyes, two ears. We explore ways of representing the number using marks, fingers, resources etc. We explore counting up to and beyond the number.

Of course, all this learning is done using a fun and play based approach; we also ensure that our classroom provision is enhanced with a range of open-ended resources for the children to explore and experiment with in their play. If needed, sometimes we focus on a number for more than one week.

Take a look at some of the fun things that we have been doing during this term at nursery:

Making sandwiches for our picnic in the outdoor classroom.



Planting sunflower seeds in our garden centre.



Making soup out of herbs and vegetables in our mud kitchen.



Looking at shapes and numbers in our maths area.