



British Values in the Early Years

We first started to hear about British values in August 2014 and Ofsted have started inspecting childminders, early years providers and schools on how well they promote British values.

It is important to note that you don't need to plan specific 'lessons' to teach children British values – they should be embedded in everything you do. Britain has undergone rapid economic and social change in the last few decades and we live in an increasingly diverse society. We need to teach our children that it is possible to live together peacefully, each of them a valuable part of our multicultural world.

Here are some of the ways we embed Fundamental British Values into our everyday practice at Little Elms:

Democracy: making decisions together

- Listening, watching and reacting to what babies tell us
- Children deciding upon resources/themes in a learning zone – eg – role play area, outdoor area
- Creating collaborative learning zone agreements where all children have contributed their ideas
- A decision-making tree – a visual resource that supports young children in making collaborative decisions throughout the week
- Simple voting methods are introduced in Preschool rooms – for example: All children vote on decisions using their name on lego pieces, a tower is built as the voting takes place, this makes it easier for them to see where the most votes are OR children post their vote using a 'token' so that they can clearly see that the jar containing the most tokens is the most popular.
- Song sacks/theme boxes – making decisions as to which resources/songs/rhymes will be used in a session

Rule of Law: understanding rules matter

- Setting clear routines/boundaries/expectations
- Spot Timers
- Sand Timers – allowing children to regulate their own rules
- Sharing/Turn Taking
- Traffic Light visual supports or Now and Next
- Posting boxes
- Resources that support how children are feeling, eg – face balls, emotion books

Individual Liberty: freedom for all

- Photo cue cards that support transitions, eg – nappy change/snack/washing hands
- Family tins/boxes that are special to each individual
- Choosing Boards – visual aids
- My Mood – mirror for feelings
- Picture cards that display emotions/feelings
- Books that discuss emotions/feelings – eg – It's Okay to be Different or encourage children to make choices, eg – You Choose/Just Imagine

Mutual respect and tolerance: treat others as you wish to be treated

- Playing simple touch games, eg – 'Where is your nose, mouth etc'
- Using mirrors to identify individual features
- Talking pens/Talking tins that use languages other than English (relevant to children in the nursery)
- Sharing/Turn taking activities
- Resources that children can relate to – eg – Elmer the Elephant