



Our Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission -

At the Old School Nursery Shapwick we aim to create a safe, happy, loving environment where children can learn, grow and flourish, preparing them for the next stage of their amazing lives.

Our Vision -

The Old School Nursery, provides a home away from home, set in the countryside location of the village of Shapwick. We create an atmosphere that encourages the enquiring, expanding thoughts, fascinations, and imagination of the children in a safe and caring environment.

Our Values - and how we achieve them

1) *Children are at the heart of our nursery family.*

- We respect children's rights and understand it is our job to help teach children what their rights are.
- We offer respectful care practices to all children and families who join our setting; this includes the way we interact as key workers, having an unhurried pace and allowing freedom of movement.
- Children are competent and we try to see the world through their eyes, listening to their questions, their curiosities, needs, likes and dislikes.
- We see children as active agents who can set their pace and lead their play. We strongly believe that learning happens during the process of acquiring skills and not in creating a constant stream of products.
- Offering great nutrition, ways to keep both mind and body healthy are central to our daily practices.
- We offer a loving pedagogy - we recognise the importance of young children feeling loved, safe and cared for in order to thrive, we know that our key worker supports attachments that can be the bed rock of overcoming trauma and becoming resilient and understanding our feelings and behaviours.
- Children explore the world through their senses, we provide for all of the senses and understand how they link to development.
- We strive to make a difference for each child; we do this by closing the gaps in learning that children may have, offering inclusive provision and going the extra mile for our families.
- We will slow down the pace and work with children in an unhurried way - we recognise that life is fast paced and children need to be present in order to be able to relish and master in every stage of development and not be rushed to achieve before their brains and bodies are ready. Children deserve adults who are fully present.

2) We are partners, with our children, families and community

- Parents are our children's first educators and we build relationships with families to ensure that we share and collaborate to provide the best for their child. Shared journey
- We will work with dedication and determination to get the right support for each child even if this means professional challenges and stepping out of our comfort zone to have a family's voice heard.
- We will engage in clear and regular communication, which considers the needs and opinions of others and is upheld with robust policies and procedures.
- It is our moral duty to give service to our community and support initiatives that help improve the lives of those around us. We aim to be active in our local community and the wider surroundings and to involve others across the generations to engage with us. We recognise the importance of our children as active members of our community and the value this give to their cultural and social capital.
- We are mindful of our impact on our environment and work to engage in ways to enhance and protect our beautiful village and beyond.
- We aim to see the magic together to have fun together and to spread this happiness and joy on our adventures which take us beyond our doors.

3) We are passionate and dedicated to providing the best for children

- We are aligned as a team in our vision for the children and celebrate the fact that our differences mean we bring together a rich and varied set of skills. We use these skills to teach each other and this bring clarity to the whole.
- Children need to be connected to nature, with this in mind we are led by the seasons, life cycles and growing projects.
- When we love what we do and we commit to it with passion, we are more likely to succeed, be motivated and inspire each other.
- We will keep learning and training and being reflective in our practices as we continue to move our setting forwards.
- We will listen to the latest innovations in our sector and be a part of sharing this passion.
- We will establish robust policies and procedures for communication.
- We give children time and space to create and manage their own risks, be resilient and support each other.
- Our approach to the curriculum is to be as rich and broad as possible taking into account the interests of the children and the context we are in. We understand that learning happens in a wide and varied range of experiences, from art, dance, music, movement, maths, storying and so much more.
- We create beauty in our environments to show the children that we are all worth the time and effort it takes to give each other spaces that are inviting and where we want to spend time. We believe that it is respectful to provide real and authentic resources for children and in doing so we show them their value.