



Policy reviewed on 21.6.17

EAL policy

EAL is the term used for children who have a home language other than English and who are in the process of learning to use English as an additional language for educational purposes.

At The Exwick Ark we believe that all bilingual EAL learners are entitled to the full range of early years and statutory educational services and are entitled to equal opportunities of educational success. We feel that bilingualism / multilingualism is an achievement which is educationally enriching and that having a home language other than English is not a learning difficulty.

At The Exwick Ark we aim to provide EAL Children and their families with the support they need to integrate into society and the setting. Bilingual EAL learners in the Exwick area of Exeter come from a range of ethnic backgrounds and from a variety of language and literacy backgrounds. Some have arrived at “The Ark” having had a certain amount of exposure to the English language and the local culture; others are newcomers to both. Some have developed literacy skills in their home language; others are pre-literate as we cater for children from the age of six month to school age. We recognise that some children’s first language is using hand signs eg Makaton and this form of communication is taught and used by staff and children. Sarah Emerton co-ordinates our use of hand signing.

When children come into our setting with English as their second language, we make every effort to welcome them and help them to gain confidence. We feel that it is very important to celebrate a child’s first language and all staff members are encouraged to learn a few words or sentences that they can use with a child and their family. As part of our home visit we will ask parents to provide us with key words such as hello, goodbye, toilet, snack/food etc...

At home visits we ensure that written information about the Exwick Ark is offered in the home language of the families attending if needed and a list of translators is kept to refer to.

We are very lucky to have members of staff at “The Ark” who are themselves bilingual or able to speak other languages. Due to this we are able to assist children with various languages and celebrate other languages by having regular sessions on singing songs or telling stories in other languages. In addition to this we encourage parents to contribute to our sessions to celebrate different languages and cultures if they feel comfortable to do so. In our parent room we have a multi- language story book on display using all the languages spoken in our nursery. In addition we have had parents come in to tell us about their own customs particularly around holidays such as Diwali, Christmas and Easter. Dual language books are also provided to ensure children see their own language in written form.



Our English as a second language co-ordinator team include Monica, Wioletta, Nawal and Louise. These staff keeps up to date with research and available resources in this area of our provision by attending EAL cluster meetings and provide support and training to all staff.

Children who come to our setting with English as an additional language are registered with Devon County Council by Wioletta in order that we can, if needed, access resources and help for children with EAL.

Each child's development at "The Ark" is tracked through the standards of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage); there is an additional tracking for EAL children known as the EMA (Ethnic Minority Achievement) form which tracks their EAL development. These records are then sent on to schools with their transition documents to aid future educational development.

Signed: