

A young child with curly brown hair is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The child is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and is holding a small yellow flower with both hands. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. The entire image is framed by a white border.

PARENT

THE CURIOSITY  
APPROACH

MAGAZINE

# THE CURIOSITY APPROACH



**YOUR GREATEST  
CONTRIBUTION  
MAY NOT BE SOMETHING YOU  
DO BUT SOMEONE YOU RAISE**

## *WELCOME TO THE JOURNEY*

At our setting we are passionate about early years, inspiring our little ones to be the 'thinkers & doers' of the future. We have embarked on an incredible new approach which inspires children through curiosity, awe and wonder.

Through this approach, children learn through the use of authentic resources, recycled materials and loose parts. Our mindful and passionate team will look to create amazing play spaces for children, where they have the opportunity to become inquisitive capable learners.



We are delighted to announce we have embarked on  
The Curiosity Approach accreditation scheme.

We are working towards gaining recognition for providing beautiful play spaces and  
learning opportunities for children.

The Curiosity Approach is a wondrous ethos that focuses on Curiosity, Awe, and Wonder  
in Early Childhood. We are excited to start this incredible journey and are thrilled to share  
it with you.

Over the up coming year, we are looking to reflect on our current practice and standards  
and strive to make changes to our environment. Looking to use authentic resources, loose  
parts and an approach that provides wondrous learning opportunities for your incredible  
little learners

The Curiosity Approach is an ethos/approach where we focus on and celebrating  
magical moments in early years, providing passion, and the invitations to learning, which  
will promote Curiosity, Imagination, and Awe & Wonder for children.

It's exciting news and we hope you will join us on this incredible journey.

***<https://www.facebook.com/curiosityapproach/>***

# WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

01

Curiosity, Awe and Wonder, -providing wondrous opportunities to learning and development

02

Passionate motivated staff, who are curious adults too. Dedicated to inspiring our incredible little learners

03

Beautiful play spaces, which offer endless opportunities to learning and development.

04

The introduction of authentic materials, and loose parts, which teach children HOW to think and not WHAT to THINK!

05

Calm, tranquil environment allowing children time and space to learn

06

Creating the thinkers and doers of the future. preparing children for life

A MODERN DAY APPROACH, GIVING CHILDREN THE WINGS TO FLY.

## AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

instead of using plastic pretend, child-sized toys, we use the real thing. Resources which value children's play.

We have moved away from manufactured toys- which are miniature and child size. By giving children 'real' authentic resources to play with, it opens up a wealth of opportunities for learning.



CITNETHUA  
AUTHENTUA



MATERIALS

These resources offer a range of textures to explore and investigate. In comparison, plastic feels the same, smells the same and all looks the same. By providing an eclectic collection of resources, children are given a wider range of experiences, opportunities for critical thinking, exploration, and discovery.



THROUGH THE EYES  
OF A CHILD

WHY WE ARE MOVING AWAY FROM BRIGHT  
COLOURS

# OVER STIMULATION

A stimulating environment to play in and explore helps your child learn and grow. But sometimes too many activities add up to overstimulation.

It's all about finding a balance that's right for your child.



## OUR NURSERY IS A CALM TRANQUIL SPACE

Through The Curiosity Approach, we aim to provide a home-from-home environment, through a calming, tranquil space. Neutral colours, natural materials, cosy places for children to sit and look at books or engage in deep learning.

Bright colors, painted windows and rooms crammed with walls full of displays, laminated sheets and number lines, over stimulate children and can lead to over sensitivity, anxiety, and loss of concentration. We aim to provide excellent learning opportunities without impacting on your child's happiness and well-being.

# CALM



Question: Have you ever been to the 'clothes sales', keen to go to the seek out a deal? You enter the store and immediately the atmosphere changes.

Music plays methodically in the back ground, not hearing it, not interested in it. However, it is there filling your ears relentlessly.

Clothes hang from every station, brightly coloured miss-matched items, all dragged out from every season and displayed to catch your eye and attention. No order to the arrangement, no purpose, just there to show your everything that has been on offer, over the past few months and sometimes blooming years.

Clothes or other random items fill every shelf, surface, just in case it meets your style or it might interest you in some way.

A whole array of different, random pieces to meet the wide variety of tastes, sizes, styles and ensure the store meets the diverse needs of its wide ranging customers.

Stuff is everywhere, messy unorganised chaos, as people toss items aside, with no regard for their value or replacing it back on the hanger it once came from or the shelf it once was displayed on.

People move quickly, their behaviour rude, Kurt and with no regard for the fellow shoppers that share this environment.

The music still drones on, like a constant ear worm – ever relentless, ever playing!

The artificial lighting is set to bright, glaring constantly to show case the items within.

The shopper next to you pushes you out the way to grab the item on the shelf, shoving her pointy elbows in your side as she makes a grasp for that last remaining sale item.

How are you feeling? Can you relate to such a shopping experience? Did you want to get OUT pretty sharpish? Did you want to escape as quickly as you entered, not interested, not engaged, not focused on the wealth of items on offer?

Are you experiencing sensory overload?

# LET'S REFLECT

As early years educators we need to reflect on our own environments. To think outside the box and view your play space through the eyes of the children within.

At our setting, we are working tirelessly to improve the experiences and learning opportunities for children. To ensure children never feel over anxious, stressed or over stimulated. we aim to provide a space children feel happy, content. to feel safe and secure to play explore and investigate. to be motivated stimulated. Curious inquisitive learners, who are given opportunities to reach their full potential and the 'wings to fly'.

We are reflecting on questions, such as does our play space feel homely, inviting and not institutionalised?

Do we have elements of nature within, plants, flowers, nature, water etc? Are resources thoughtfully presented – inviting children with subliminal messages to come explore, investigate and play? Inspiring curiosity in early childhood.

Are resources easily assessable, allowing opportunities for self-selection, promoting independence and opportunities for free choice?

Do we offer children the opportunity to access authentic resources, loose parts, and recycled materials? Resources that allow children opportunity to learn how to think, not what to think.



# Loose parts

Do you have any of these items at home?  
Please bring them in asap. Thank you.



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## ITEMS WE COLLECT

CARDBOARD TUBES, PAPER, AIR VENT DUCTS, BIKE WHEELS, JAM JARS, RIBBON, MATERIAL, RECYCLED PACKAGING. PLASTIC POTS  
STICKS, STONES, ACORNS, CONKERS, FEATHERS, SEED PODS, SUNFLOWER HEADS, BOXES, WOOL DRAIN PIPES, GUTTERING, BASKETS,  
CRATES, WOODEN PLANKS, LAMINATE, LOGS, TREE STUMPS, CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, BAUBLES, BUTTONS, PHOTO FRAMES, POOL  
NOODLES, COSTUME JEWELLERY, PLANT POTS, CURTAIN RINGS  
THE LIST IS LIMITLESS AND ANY THING COULD BE USED AS A LOOSE PART. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AT HOME, THAT MAY BE USEFUL?



## WHAT ARE LOOSE PARTS?

Loose parts are items that can be used in a multiple of ways with no pre-determined outcome. Children choose how to use these items.

They can combine them, line them up, join them together, transport them. Developing opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving. Opportunities for counting, sorting. Mathematical concepts and so many more learning outcomes.

Children can use these items for construction, building, joining them together, developing skills of problem solving and critical thinking. Through the use of items we are opening up a wealth of opportunities to experience a range of textures, size, shape and variable weights. All of these help children to develop mathematical concepts, opening opportunities for conversation and questioning.

Loose parts can be used holistically across all areas of the setting and are usually stored, so that children can access and select them independently.

Loose parts have no fixed outcome, which means there is no right or wrong way to play or use these items. Which in turn ensures learning is not prescriptive with adult determined outcomes. Children take ownership of their play and it opens up endless possibilities to learning and development. By using and interacting with these items children are developing essential manipulative skills, building their dexterity and fine motor skills in preparation for later pencil control.

Their focus is on the process of learning and being actively engaged, instead of creating an end result eg picture which is like taking a test

Through the use of loose parts we are celebrating play as fundamental to children's learning and development. Children are researchers in their own learning, they are highly motivated to engage and develop concentration skills and improves levels of perseverance.

Loose parts ensure children are taught HOW to Think, not WHAT to Think!



# **JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY**

**"Be curious. Endlessly Curious. Go on asking questions. Never stop wondering why or how one thing links to another. How something changed. How one thing turned into another...Be curious".**

**— Michael Rosen**

**Make Believe Arts Patron**

# EXCITING TIMES

At our setting, we continue to strive to offer excellent standards of care and education. By joining The Curiosity Approach Accreditation scheme we look to keep reflecting on our practice and the opportunities we offer your children.

We hope you can support us by saving loose parts and anything listed in the pages above.

Our main goal is to ensure that your child reaches their full potential, in a stimulating caring and safe environment.

Giving your child the opportunity to follow their own learning style through curiosity, awe, wonder, and fun

Thank you for taking the time to support us

kindest regards  
OUR TEAM

