

**Children's rights and entitlements**

**Policy statement**

* We promote children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by creating an environment in our setting that encourages children to develop a positive self-image, which includes their heritage arising from their colour on ethnicity, their languages spoken at home, their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and home background.
* We promote children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by encouraging children to develop a sense of autonomy and independence
* We promote children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to by enabling children to have the self-confidence and the vocabulary to resist inappropriate approaches.
* We help children to establish and sustain satisfying relationships within their families, with peers and other adults
* We work with parents to build their understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of safeguarding all our children.

**What it means to promote children's rights and entitlements to be ‘strong, resilient and listen to’**

To be **strong** means to be:

* secure in their foremost attachment relationships where they are loved and cared for, by at least one person who is able to offer consistent, positive and unconditional regard and who can be relied on; in our setting this is the key person
* safe and valued as individuals in their families and in relationships beyond the family, such as daycare or school
* self assured and form a positive sense of themselves - including all aspects of their identity and heritage;
* included equally and belong in early years settings and in community life
* confident in abilities and proud of their achievements
* progressing optimally in all aspects of their development and learning
* to be part of a peer group in which to learn to negotiate, develop social skills and identity as global citizens, respecting the rights of others in a diverse world;
* to participate and be able to represent themselves in aspects of service delivery that affects them as well as aspects of key decisions that affect their lives.

To be **resilient** means to:

* be sure of their self-worth and dignity
* be able to be assertive and state that means effectively
* be able to overcome difficulties and problems
* be positive in their outlook on life
* be able to cope with challenge and change
* have a sense of justice towards self and others; and
* be able to represent themselves and others including in key decision making processes

To be **listened** to means:

* adults who are close to children recognise their need and right to express and communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas
* adults who are close to children are able to tune into their verbal, sign and body language in order to understand and interpret what is being expressed and communicated
* adults who are close to children are able to respond appropriately and, when required, act upon their understanding of what children express and communicate ; and
* adults respect children's rights and facilitate children's participation and representation in imaginative and child centred ways in all aspects of core services

**Role of the key person**

All parents must be informed of who their child’s key person is. We do this both verbally and by written communication in our welcome packs. Each member of staff’s photos appear on our website and in the lobby there is a noticeboard displaying photos of each key person alongside photos of their key children.

The key person will work with the child and their family to ensure that the child's individual needs are met and to ensure that all safeguarding and welfare requirements are met for that child.