



Fundamental British Values

“Fundamental British values, first set out in the Government’s Prevent strategy, are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The promotion of fundamental British values will be reflected in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and exemplified in an age-appropriate way through practice guidance” – *Early Education and Childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities by Department of Education.*

Democracy

Within the early years this is all about making decisions together, it focusses heavily on children’s self-confidence and self-awareness - linked to children’s PSE

In practice managers and practitioners should support and encourage children to help them understand that their views count and that they should express them. By encouraging children to express their views it will teach children to value each other’s and talk about their feelings. With the older children there may be many occasions where you can involve children in sharing their views for example if you are changing your home corner around ask the children what they would like to see in there and this can be achieved by asking them to put their hands up.

For the younger children practitioners can support decision making by providing activities that involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children need to be given these opportunities as it will begin to develop their minds and help them understand about why decisions are made.

Rule of Law

Rule of Law is about understanding rules; it focuses on managing children’s feelings and behaviour, which links in with personal, social and emotional development.

To help children manage their feelings and behaviour Little Munchkins staff help children understand their own and others behaviours. Children need to learn to distinguish right from wrong. In every practice, we ensure our behaviour management policy is being followed and is consistent.

For young children it can be hard to teach them about rules, but by being consistent with regards to our behaviour management policy, children will begin to learn right from wrong.

A way in which we help children fully understand rules is to let them be involved in the process of creating the rules we follow as a setting, such as rules regarding tidying up etc.

Individual Liberty

This is all about children's freedom for all. This focuses on children's self-confidence and self-awareness, as well as people & communities. But what does freedom for all mean in the early years?

Children are encouraged to develop a positive sense of themselves, to help achieve this Little Munchkins staff provide opportunities to help children develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. This is done by allowing children to take risks indoors and outdoors for example on a climbing frame, or by mixing colours with paint; an activity that allows children to take that risk will help build those confidence skills.

During every day practice we find time to carry out discussions which allow children to explore the language of feelings and it gives opportunities for children to express themselves and understand that children have different opinions.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

This concentrates on treating others as you want to be treated; it focuses on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships.

It is the Little Munchkins managers and play-leader's responsibility to create an environment that is inclusive, and respect and value views, faiths, cultures and races. It is also important that children are engaged with their wider community.

Children are encouraged to show respect for their own culture and of others. To help support this we join in celebrations and traditions and attempt to involve parents and grandparents. Joining in other cultural celebrations is a great way for children to learn and share other customs.

To help promote mutual respect it is important for us to focus on behaviour such as sharing and respecting others opinions. In early years there are many opportunities for us to encourage sharing and this can be achieved with most activities. With regards to respecting others opinions, children are taught to understand that everyone has an opinion and whether they are right or wrong doesn't matter.

Managers ensure that the setting promotes equality and diversity. In practice, this can be achieved by sharing stories that reflect and values the diversity of children's experiences. At Little Munchkins, we use resources that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping. It is not just about having a few multi-faith books on the shelf and a few posters on the wall it's about looking at how it can actively promoted across the setting both in practice and through the use of resources.

“Extremism”

“Extremism” is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

British Values through Literacy in EYFS

Why not celebrate British authors and poets? We encourage children to pick a favourite British writer to focus on each month, reading aloud their work, incorporating it into story time and discussing their importance to British heritage.

Actively encouraging discussion enables us to support your children's understanding of the British value of mutual respect and tolerance towards each other's opinions.

Through Understanding the World

Embracing British food alongside cuisine from around the world is the perfect opportunity for your children to learn about and understand other cultures and traditions, again enabling us to explore these British values within EYFS.

We ask children to take turns to pick a favourite food from around the world, and if children are from other parts of the world or with family living in other countries, we ask them to share their favourite national dishes and incorporate these into your food activities. This gives us the perfect opportunity to allow children to explore other traditions and cultures, as well as the British value of democracy.

Through Physical Development

This is a really fun area for children to learn about understanding and mutual respect of others. Alongside moving and dancing activities to British songs, we incorporate songs from different countries and ‘genres’ (encouraging children to discuss their favourites and therefore supporting the British value of individual liberty).

Through Communication and Language

‘Britishness’ can describe qualities such as showing mutual respect, kindness and a tolerance for others. These are cornerstone qualities we instil at Little Munchkins and can be incorporated into all of the above activities – from encouraging open discussion on topics between children (e.g. when asking children to vote on their favourite stories, or through discussion about why you have rules, 'laws' or boundaries), through to sharing activities and show and tell sessions (encouraging children to ask questions, respect and listen to others).

Ways in which we promote British Values:

- *Celebrating and marking British occasions and festivals*
- *Teaching children to listen to each other and wait before speaking, how to have a conversation*
- *Kindness, helpful, respectful of others*
- *Table manners*
- *Learning about our heritage and history*
- *Being polite, saying please and thank you*
- *Listening during story and song time*
- *Teaching empathy and understanding*
- *Appropriate behaviour and learning right from wrong*
- *Taking turns and sharing*
- *Learning British weather and seasons*
- *Being part of local community through outings and partnerships with local schools, nurseries etc*
- *Making friends and friendship*
- *Tolerating others and mutual respect*
- *Cooking, eating and learning about traditional British food*
- *Celebrating British authors and illustrators*

Some festivals, celebrations and special dates celebrated in Britain:

- *Valentines Day*
- *Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day*
- *Mother's Day*
- *Lent*
- *April Fools Day*
- *Easter Weekend*
- *St George's Day (England)*
- *Fathers Day*
- *Queens Birthday*
- *Summer Solstice*
- *Wimbeldon*
- *Notting Hill Carnival*
- *Halloween*
- *Bonfire Night*
- *Remembrance Day*
- *Harvest Festival*
- *Christmas Day*
- *Boxing Day*