

Woodwork and Tinkering

Friedrich Froebel was a pioneer of Early Education and Childcare from the early 19th century. Today we still follow his ideas as we look at his Froebelian approach in our nursery. Froebel believed in the importance of an integrated approach to encourage a child to make sense of their world. His view was of children as holistic learners who learned most effectively by being active with their hands and minds. Froebel emphasised giving children hands-on involvement in practical learning and believed in combining imagination and physical movement in exploring interests.

What we do in Nursery

Within our nursery setting we offer the children opportunities to build and explore through real life experiences, learning from failures and time to explore and invent.

We use real life tools under adult supervision to embrace the children's curiosities through exploring and experimenting.

The children risk assess their play before using the tools and make plans of what they are going to build.

The staff are learning alongside the children and developing new skills.



'To learn a thing in life and through doing is much more developing, cultivating and strengthening than to learn it merely through the verbal communication of ideas'.

Froebel 1826

Why is Tinkering Important

Tinkering during play can teach children valuable lessons by helping develop fine motor skills, problem solving abilities, and peer relationships. Fine motor development involves the coordination of small muscles in fingers and hands. Strong fine motors skills are necessary for writing, cutting, using utensils, and tying shoe laces. Without these acquired fine motor skills, children may find difficulty in performing simple tasks.

Home ideas

If your child loves to take things apart consider finding him or her second-hand items such as wall clocks and stereos. It will meet the needs of their natural curiosity. Why don't you give it a try, it's not as scary as you think!