

Dear Parents

LEARNING JOURNEY PORTFOLIO FOR YOUR CHILD

Children's records of achievement are sometimes referred to as a learning journey, or as a developmental 'profile' or 'portfolio'.

Maintaining a portfolio of a child's achievements across all aspects of development or areas of learning helps practitioners with:

- Tracing children's direction of progress;
- Sharing progress with parents or other professionals;
- Planning to further children's progress; and
- Presenting assessments in an attractive and meaningful way so that parents and children will enjoy contributing to it as well as looking back on it in years to come.

Learning journey portfolios serve as records of achievement to be shared with the children and parents, key people can celebrate the achievements with the children and parents and talk with them about what they might achieve next. Having access to the children's records of achievement will help parents and key people to work together to decide on possible next steps for progressing the children's development and how they can help children to achieve the goals.

Giving children access to their record files in this way enables them to have a stake in them. Children are eager to grow and develop. If children's records of achievement and the plans for their progress are shared with them, children can be involved in deciding for themselves that a particular piece of their work should be added to the evidence in the file. Supporting the children's interest in what is in their portfolio serves several useful purposes:

- It supports the children's developing sense of their own autonomy
- It prevents the record-keeping process from being seen - by children or parents - as a negative search for weaknesses rather than a positive celebration of strengths
- It can counter any negative feelings children might already have about themselves. By helping them to see all the ways they are making progress, it can give them confidence their progress is possible, even in areas they find more difficult.

Therefore each child at Broomhill Nursery will have their own Learning Journey, which will be a personal journey of their learning and development, both in and out of nursery.

The format of the Learning Journey will be the same for each child and is listed below.

A new Learning Journey will be used in each area of the nursery for the child, with their last report being used as the starting point for the next stage of the journey. The previous stage will be given to parents. The last report should summarize the child, and their previous successes as well as targeting future developments. Children will be involved in what goes into their Learning Journey and in putting it in there. Parents are encouraged to look at/add to their child's Learning Journey at every opportunity. In addition parents will have access to "my diary" sheets, which they can use with their child. For example if they went to the cinema at the weekend the parent could write about this and the child could stick in the cinema ticket and draw a picture. This can then be added to the Learning Journey, and provide a valuable home-nursery link.

Each piece of work/observation/diary entry will be placed in chronological order to provide a real journey of learning and achievement for the individual child.