



The Woodland

NURTURE GROUP

What is nurture?

► nurture

verb:

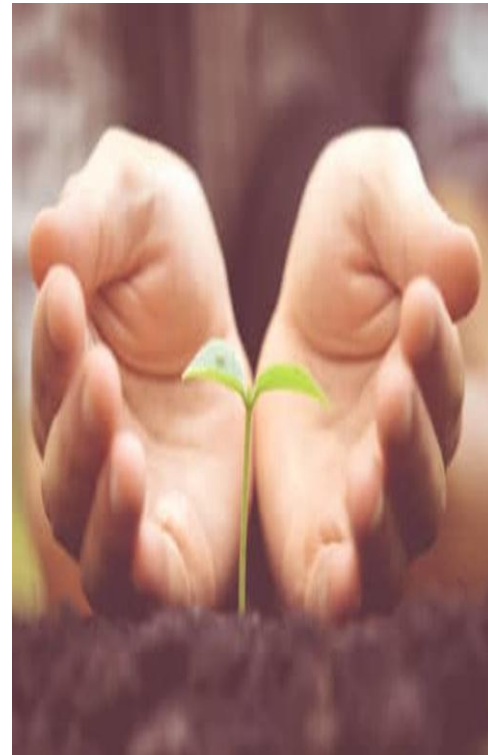
care for and protect (someone or something) while they are growing.

noun:

the action or process of nurturing someone or something.

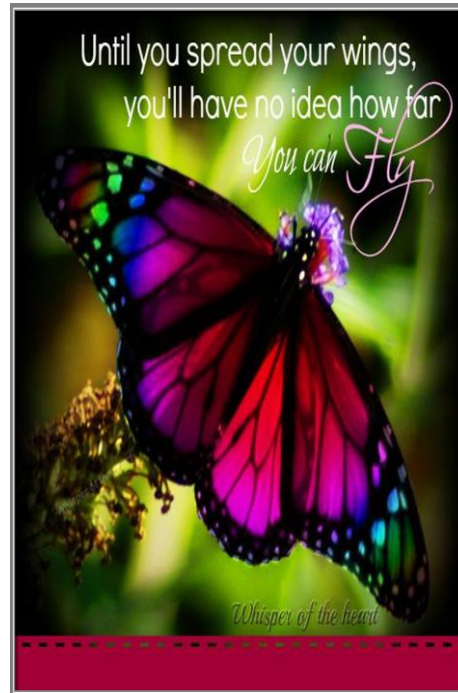
Nurture groups are small, structured teaching groups for pupils showing signs of social or emotional difficulties in and/or out of school.

These sessions provide an environment where pupils can build trusting relationships with adults to gain the skills they need in order to learn in larger classes.



Our nurture group at
Spire Junior School is
called

The
Woodland



Why is nurture important?

Nurture groups are important in all school settings as they assess learning and social and emotional needs and give help that is needed to remove the barriers to learning. The groups are a short-term, focused intervention lasting a school term but if needed children can stay on for the next term.

The aim is to gently break down the barriers, helping them to return to their class with coping strategies for each day.

As the children learn academically and socially they develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect and take pride in behaving well and in achieving.

How does nurture work?


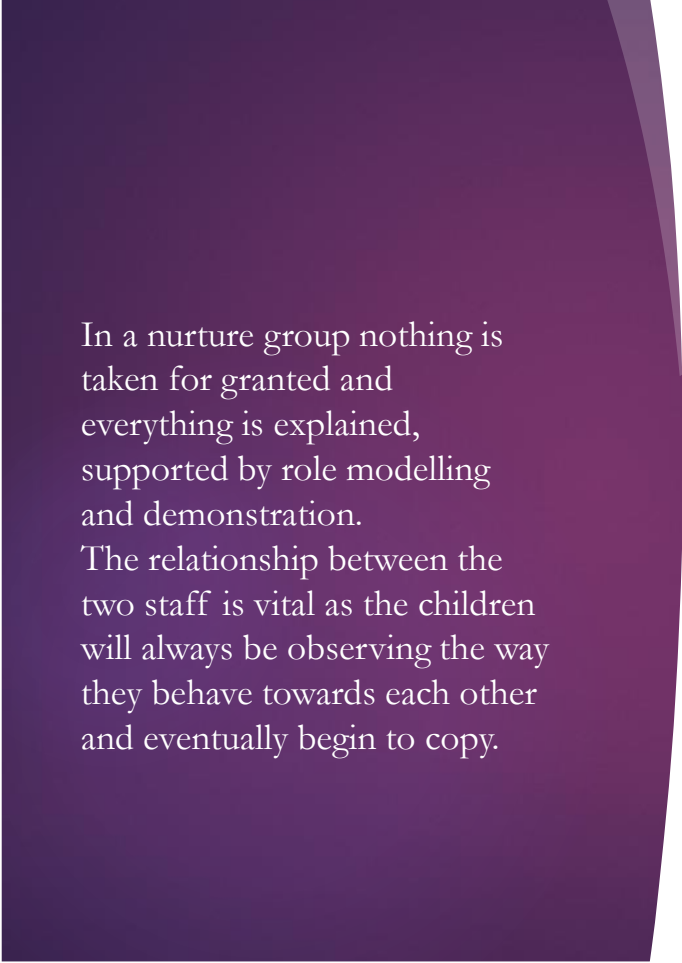
Nurture groups work by following the six principles of nurture. These principles are used when we plan our topics, throughout our weekly sessions and during assessments.

By using these principles set by Nurture UK in our setting, we know that our children are getting everything they deserve by attending the sessions.



The 6 Principles of nurture

- 1) Children's learning is understood developmentally.
- 2) The classroom offers a safe base.
- 3) The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.
- 4) Language is a vital means of communication.
- 5) All behaviour is communication.
- 6) The importance of transitions in children's lives.



In a nurture group nothing is taken for granted and everything is explained, supported by role modelling and demonstration.

The relationship between the two staff is vital as the children will always be observing the way they behave towards each other and eventually begin to copy.

Throughout the session during jobs, tidying away and speaking and listening the staff constantly promote good manners and language.



What we do in The Woodland

Job 1



The child works to a given time and structure which works on time management and imagination. At the end of the activity they use their voice to describe what they have completed giving them confidence to talk to a group.

Job 2



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For job 2 children work in small groups, we try and group them with children from other classes who they wouldn't normally socialize with. These activities work on communication within a group situation, listening to others and being able to express their thoughts and feelings confidently and in a positive way. It also focuses on how they have to share and work as a team for an activity to work or be completed.

Working together

Working together is a whole group task where we do topic based activities. These can be creative, science experiments or child led if they have an idea they want to share. On Fridays we play a game which can be a table game or an outside game.

These tasks allow group discussions and conversations where the adults role model speaking and listening, turn taking and sharing.

Games are played as pairs and equipment is put out so there is never enough for one each to encourage turn taking, being patient and having to ask politely for items to be passed.

Snack time

This part of the routine gives children the chance to sit around a table as a group including the adults. Each session the children take it in turns to set the table for snack giving them a responsibility. When everyone is sat down they will go around the table, starting and finishing with an adult so manners can be modeled. Politely, they will ask if they would like snack and then serve it. Each child is reminded that they are to use their manners, if they forget. When everyone has their snack including the server, everyone can start. This part of the routine gives the children a sense of responsibility and to be able to chat around the table. We have had many conversations at snack time from what they have done at the weekend to something that they have wanted to share with the group. As relationships and trust are formed we have seen deeper conversations happen such as parents splitting up, friendship issues and home life. We don't stop these conversations but we do guide where they are going. If we feel its more a disclosure we will ask the child to come and talk to us in private.

Circle time and story time

Every session will end with a circle time or story time, this gives the group time to calm down before returning back to class.

Circle time happens most days but sometimes is included in our working together activity if its about feelings. This is so we can discuss it and ask questions before we start. All circle times are a chance to look at different feelings and have discussions, we also have activities that we complete as a group on the carpet in our circle time corner.

Both story time and circle time are planned around either the topic or an emotion

Good news books

Good news books are a massive part of nurture. We read these out as a group every session so that we can all be part of this positive part of the day. When children hear that their teacher has wrote something good about them, you can see their whole body language change and they sit proud with a huge smile. The rest of the group always comment positively on each others books and are encouraged to ask questions. When children come down to nurture some of them may have had a negative morning so to hear that their teacher has seen the good qualities about them, builds up their confidence and self esteem. They know that nurture is safe, happy and positive place where what happens in a morning doesn't follow them down and that it's a fresh start .

The Woodland runs every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1;15pm while 3pm with Mrs Harrison and Mrs Boulton.



We hope you found this booklet helpful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us via the school office.

