

What influences our policies?

Our policies are influenced by 2 major pieces of current legislation. These pieces of legislation are not only adopted by us but are used by the majority of the preschool settings in this country.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) brings together: *Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage* (2000), the *Birth to Three Matters* (2002) framework and the *National Standards for Under 8s Daycare and Childminding* (2003), building a coherent and flexible approach to care and learning. We are required to use the EYFS to ensure that your child is receiving a quality experience that supports their development and learning.

The EYFS framework has 4 main themes that we adopt in our care and education of the children at Alderton Acorns:

- Unique child
- Positive relationships
- Enabling environments
- Learning and development

More information on the themes and principles adopted in the EYFS are available from our preschool leader or from the EYFS website www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs (www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs, 2008).

Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters: Change for Children is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19.

The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

Be healthy

Stay safe

Enjoy and achieve

Make a positive contribution

Achieve economic well-being

At Alderton Acorns we aim to protect children from harm and help them achieve what they want in life. This will be achieved through the staff and committee working closely with the children and parents/carers and adhering to the policies that already in place. However, we recognise that there will be times when we will need to share information and work together with other organisations.

In addition, there are several strategies evolving and in place as a result of Every Child Matters that make sure that parents are supported from pregnancy onwards and that all children get the best start possible in the vital early years. At Alderton Acorns we aim to keep up-to-date with any strategies that are relevant to our setting. We will inform parents of these strategies and how they are influencing the care and development of their children at Alderton Acorns.

This information was taken from the Every Child Matters website which can be found at: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk (2009).