The Six Principles of Nurture

1. Children's Learning is Understood Developmentally

Children may function at a different developmental stage due to stress or trauma. Support is matched to developmental need, not just chronological age.

Key message: Meet children where they are.

2. The Classroom Offers a Safe Base

A nurturing environment is predictable, structured, and relationship-focused. Clear routines and trusted adults help children feel secure.

Key message: Children learn best when they feel safe.

3. Nurture is Important for the Development of Wellbeing

Emotional wellbeing underpins learning. Positive relationships, praise, and encouragement build confidence and resilience.

Key message: Wellbeing comes before academic success.

4. Language is a Vital Means of Communication

Children are supported to develop communication skills and emotional vocabulary. Adults model calm, respectful language and encourage reflection.

Key message: Words help children understand themselves and others.

5. All Behaviour is Communication

Behaviour reflects underlying feelings or unmet needs. Adults respond with curiosity and understanding rather than punishment.

Key message: Look beyond the behaviour to the need.

6. Transition is Important in Children's Lives

Changes—big or small—can be challenging. Preparation, reassurance, and clear communication reduce anxiety and support success.

Key message: Support makes change manageable.

Why Nurture Matters?

Nurturing approaches help children feel: Safe, Valued, Understood, Supported, Ready to learn