

EY OAG Action Research Project Story of Implementation - The Nest Wood End

1. Nursery Context -

- **The Nest Nursery Wood End** is a 'free-flow' PVI setting that follows The Curiosity Approach Pedagogy for children aged 0-5.
- Under 2's have their own space with supported access to the garden. The children aged 2-5 benefit from full free flow access between the indoor and outdoor environment.

3. Actions Taken -

- Our SendCo Team completed an audit of sensory resources. All staff members had good theoretical understanding of sensory needs. However, when reviewing the additional comments, it became evident that around 50% of staff felt unsure about how to consistently and effectively apply their knowledge in everyday routine practice to support children's sensory needs.
- We sourced LA SEND Support from The Area SENCo Team to complete a sensory walk through the setting - This identified the benefit of adding more quiet spaces opportunities throughout the nursery.
- Our nursery psychologist led a staff meeting about sensory processing

2. Background -

Participation in this OAG research project provided the focus to further support us to develop our practice around supporting children's sensory needs by identifying sensory seeking behaviours and recognising the impact of this on social behaviours during free play and transitions

4. Impact

- Staff have awareness of Sensory needs, as detailed in OAG and recognise the effective use of strategies throughout their daily practice and are aware of how to use sensory circuits. They are now frequently embedding sensory circuits into their everyday nursery practice.
- Parents have fed back saying the children appear calm and engaged on collection from nursery after engaging in sensory circuit activities.
- Transitions throughout nursery are smooth with children's behaviours being successfully supported before escalating.
- We have been exploring environmental changes such as reducing visual clutter, alongside providing sensory friendly resources.

5. Reflections & Next Steps

- Further training around sensory needs
- Ongoing review of our environment to ensure that calming spaces are continuously provided.
- Ongoing exploration of the OAG document.