

5 ways to value infants in your nursery

Often infants can get overlooked when it comes to the curriculum and instead they are on a conveyor belt of routine times until they go home. Here are some ways to value infants more:



Create a positive image of the child

Having discussions around the image of the child when it comes to infants can help create a positive one that allows you to see them as capable of learning and engaging in constant research instead of just too young to do anything or incapable to learning.



Focus on positive relationships

The more you get to know the children in your care the easier it is to see how they are learning and developing in their own unique ways. You can also learn their cues and gestures to be able to engage and interact with them in more meaningful ways.



Provide meaningful experiences

Everything is new for infants, with lots of first, so they don't necessarily need "toys" as such, more opportunities to get to know the resources and tools available to them without set expectations of achieving outcomes. If children find leaves interesting, give them more leaves!



Encourage exploration and investigation

Unless it is unsafe, children should be given as much opportunity and freedom to explore and investigate items and experiences without barriers or limitations. Children will put a paint brush to their skin to see what it feels like, so knowing this you can provide them first with water to support exploration.



Create an age-appropriate program

The way we are taught to program when studying is very much focused around how preschool age children learn. Taking time to reflect on what infants need in a program will help value their developmental needs instead of setting them up to fail as they need more time and support.