Admissions and Access to Education Service

Attendance at nursery school

City of Westminster

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We would all like our children to

- be happy and confident
- make friends with other children
- be able to talk and listen, enjoy stories and start to read simple words
- begin to investigate the world through science, design and technology, history, geography and information communication technology
- develop physically through movement and improved coordination, gain confidence in what they can do, be healthy and active
- be creative through visual art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play, and start making connections between one kind of learning and another.

But did you know that all the above form part of the early years curriculum provided by nursery schools?

Attending a nursery school gives your children a valuable introduction to school. It gives children the opportunity to develop their skills and mix with others of their own age. The relaxed atmosphere allows children to develop at their own pace.

Children are not of statutory school age until the term after their fifth birthday. However, establishing regular routines for your children at an early age is extremely important. It will benefit both you and your children as they progress through their school life, and limit the chances of poor attendance, which will have a negative effect on their enjoyment and achievement.

Evidence has shown that children who have a smooth and positive start at school remain high achievers throughout their primary education and beyond.

- If your children do not attend their nursery class or school regularly they may lose their places. If they cannot attend for any reason, always let staff know.
- Once a child reaches the age of five, regular attendance and punctuality at school become a legal requirement, enforceable by the local authority.
- You can help your children to have a positive time at school by making sure they attend their nursery provision regularly and on time.