**Bumblebees Crèche Curriculum statement**

At Bumblebees Crèche, we believe that caring and learning go hand in hand. Our curriculum provides educational programmes for our Toddler room, playschool and ECCE sessions as well as out of term care.

At Bumblebees Crèche we have a play based emergent and inquiry inclusive curriculum. Children learn to interact with others positively and understand what is positively accepted in an inclusive society. Our curriculum reflects the principals of Aistear, the national curriculum framework for children aged zero to six years (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, 2009) and Siolta, the national quality standards for the early year’s sector in Ireland (Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education, 2006). Our Curriculum involves using children’s and practitioner’s interests, questions and experiences as the basis for our curriculum planning through the medium of play. This allows the children to become more involved and engrossed in activities as they are they are planned around their topics of interest. Through observation each staff member gains an in depth understanding of each child’s strengths, personality, interests and individual needs and can plan activities accordingly for each child.

An emergent curriculum is very much collaborative.  Practitioners and children come together with ideas, practitioners also converse with each other in regard to curriculum planning and parents are very much involved and share in their children’s learning. Children feel comfortable and safe in this type of environment and it promotes their natural curiosity and imagination. Examples of emergent interests explored may include; the natural environment, music & movement, art, culture, healthy eating, numeracy skills- the list is endless!

Many of the activities are designed to develop fine and gross motor skills, language, imagination, emotional and social awareness and are presented to all the children in a fun and play oriented manner. Our practitioners ensure that each child develops and early love of learning through our activities and resources. We continually assess our curriculum to ensure our learning objectives are being reached and to ensure that we are meeting the needs of each child in our care. Our staff are qualified professionals who have a vocation in providing the best care and education for your child. All our rooms are fully equipped with the teaching resources, toys and equipment for the appropriate age group.

We also incorporate the teachings of Maria Montessori into our ECCE 2 which is also supported by Aistear and Siolta. Children learn through exploring the Montessori materials in tandem with a multitude of open ended play and Educational experiences. We also believe in the positive effects of outdoor learning and provide daily opportunities to interact with the outdoors to extend learning and promotion of physical development.

We use Little Vista software to share with the parent’s activities the children partake in that are part of the curriculum with links to the Aistear and Siolta aims and principles. This allows opportunities for the parents to provide feedback or ask questions to the practitioners on the curriculum.