



Bizzy B's Childcare

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Bizzy Bs Afterschool service to provide an inclusive service for school children, which adopts an anti-bias approach that will promote autonomy and positive self-esteem, directed by the children's interests; through play, activities and engagement with the natural environment and local community.

Aims & Ethos

At Bizzy B's after school service we are aware of the busy schedule of children with school, homework and extra-curricular activities. We aim to care for your child in a relaxing home from home environment, which will provide; support for homework completion, comfy areas for rest, and lots of opportunity for free play with access to various activities including; science, art, drama, music and sports with an emphasis on engaging with the outdoors. Children will be provided with nutritious and freshly cooked meals including breakfast, snack, lunch, dinner and tea. Meals are planned with the children and consider their likes, dislikes, allergies and other food preferences, and are supported by our healthy eating policy.

Curriculum Statement

We support children's learning and language, friendships and relationships, social, emotional and physical development including health and mental wellbeing through planning a collaborative program of child and adult led activities, including;

Sample Activities:

Daily outdoor free play, sports and recreational activities - *Park games, football, basketball, tennis, running, obstacle courses*

Education and involvement in nutrition, health eating, meal plan and food preparation and baking - *Weekly menu planning, nutrition research, preparing of own meals*

Exploring natural local environments such as parks, rivers and forests - *Nature walks by Tolka river, botanic gardens, hiking trails in Bray, Donabate, exploring in our local parks*

Learning about other creatures in the natural environment - *Learning about other animals, birds and insects in our environment, creating a wormery, bug hotel, bird watching*

Science, Horticulture and planting - *Creating our box gardens, planning, planting and taking care of our garden planters, science experiments*

Music, Art, Movement, Drama & Wellbeing - *Learning to play keyboard, drums, drama and dance workshops & productions and art activities, creation and displays and meditation and mindfulness*

Taking part in risk taking activities such as: building forts, hiking, water sports and climbing - *team building activities such as fort, den building, hiking, canoeing, climbing and camping*

At Bizzy B's we recognise the importance of building friendships and positive relationships, developing a sense of belonging, positive self-esteem, agency and resilience, we do this by:

- Fostering friendships and positive relationships, celebrating diversity, supporting children to have the confidence to stand up for themselves, and recognise and stand speak up for others in the face of adversity
- Giving children a Voice, Space, Agency & Audience
Allowing children to be involved in all matters which affect them, to have choices and to have their opinions listened to understood and included
- Celebrating friendship week, local and cultural celebrations together
- Engaging in projects with other local services including; schools, nursing homes and community centres : Supporting school with looking after the grounds, offering buddy reading, visiting our local nursing home and community centre, having celebrations with them, sharing cards and doing art & music activities together.

Supporting Policies and Strategies

Supported by the UNCRC Rights of the child and Regulated by the Childcare Act 1991, (Early Years Services) and subsequent Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018, our afterschool service will meet the needs of all children attending with a flexible play based curriculum which is underpinned by Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework, 2009 (NCCA) and includes the principals of Siolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Education (CECDE, 2006).

Consideration will be given to the principals outlined in the C.H.I.L.D Covenant. This covenant was developed at the Teaching and Learning at Home and At School, conference 2012 and sets out principals including: Children's Engagement, Character and community & Deeper Learning

Promoting Positive Mental Health

The benefits afforded by our service by allowing children 'time' spent doing choice based activities, relaxing when needed, and having a say in what they do, promote Independence, self-reflection, negotiating and problem solving skills, relationship building and positive opportunities to explore and demonstrate other skills outside of academia such as; art, painting, music, sports, giving them an opportunity to shine, and building self-confidence and a positive outlook on life.

A Collaborative Approach

To ensure our service meets the needs of all of its users and our qualified team have vast experience working collaboratively with Parents, Guardians & Families, as well as Aim, Mental, Early Intervention Team and other agencies acting as an advocate for the child.

We look forward to sharing our learning journey through fun with you and your child "Partnership involves parents, families and practitioners working together to benefit children. Each recognises, respects and values what the other does and says. Partnership involves responsibility on both sides", Aistear (2009)

This statement will be review every two years, or sooner if there is a change of practice or function of the service.