

## New beginnings

# Welcome to all our families and children

So far 2020 has been a year of many firsts for all of us but more importantly for many of the children we care for it is the first step in their learning journey.

A new beginning can bring up many emotions, a sense of excitement and happiness, joy and enthusiasm, but for some it may be anxiousness and uncertainty. Now more than ever are emotions running high and apparent in our everyday situations.



**" Children have a fundamental need to be with other people. They learn and develop through loving and nurturing relationships with adults and other children, and the quality of these interactions on their learning and development."**

**Aistear**

As educators we are working alongside the children to unpack these emotions and openly express them in safe and secure space. At StartBright we understand that relationships are at the centre of all learning and so focus our curriculum to support relationships bonding between the children and their educators.

We want all the children at StartBright to feel happy, safe and secure during their time here. We want them to develop reciprocal relationships with each other and their educators so that they are confident in their environments and in their play.

Without this feeling of security , children cannot reach their full learning potential, and so we continuously invest our time to support children to feel connected to the people around them, the spaces they work in and the materials they use.



## Coming together to share our voices



At StartBright we value and respect the voice of the child and champion its importance in our everyday curriculum, routine, and documentation. We truly believe that children are competent and capable learners who bring with them, ideas, opinions, and theories.

By listening intently to these wonderings and ideas we create a respectful learning environment that encapsulates each child's individuality and uniqueness, a space where they can explore their strengths and master skills.

By respecting each child's voice, we are role modelling to the children how important their ideas are, that they too are citizens in their own right and that they are active participants in their learning. By doing this we also empower them to make choices, become

dynamic thinkers and listeners and participate in meaningful and respectful conversations and discussions. This in turn promotes self believe, high self-esteem and confidence.

Our circle time or morning meetings are used as a time to come together to share and unpack ideas, questions, interests and movements along with shared time together and a feeling of connectedness to their group or room.

**" The words of children may at times seem strangely similar to our own, but they recall faraway and unknown worlds and meanings.."** Sergio Spaggiari

## Indoor insights...

Since the beginning of the year, we have been establishing our relationships through several different experiences both indoors and outdoors. Children often express themselves differently depending on the environment they are learning in, so we as educators facilitate this learning by offering movement between the spaces.

In our indoor environment the children have been free to explore the many different areas of their room. This offers ownership over their spaces, allows them to engage and follow their own interests and form new relationships with friends who also share these similar views.



Mealtimes offer children a wonderful opportunity to have deep and meaningful conversations with their educators and friends.



Exploring together cements friendships and offers opportunities for children to learn from one and other. Developing and focusing on these reciprocal relationships instills security and that StartBright is a safe space to learn and grow. Without this feeling of safety, children cannot begin their learning journey, and so our curriculum is centred around relationships. When children feel confident and safe, they can begin to explore the world around them.



**"If children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow."** Alfie Kohn

## Outdoor adventures...



**" Never forget the days I spent with you. Continue to be my friend, as you will always find me yours." Beethoven**



Outdoors, we are one with nature and our friends. We connect to the world around us and share our own knowledge, opinions and ideas. This helps us form trusting relationships with each other.



Working together in our outdoor environment helps to develop the children's friendships and relationships. It naturally incorporates helping others, turn taking and finding peers with similar interests to play with. Having the freedom of a larger space also helps the children with resilience and determination. It allows further investigation and exploring together.

