

Nurture Principle 1: Children's Learning is Understood Developmentally

Think about a Wall of Needs (Adapted from Adoption UK).



Nurturing relationships & experiences build healthy foundations.

"Imagine a house with fragile foundations or soggy cement... the child's social, emotional, and developmental age may differ to their developmental age " - Dr Karen Treisman



- Separating from parents/carers.
- Feeling safe.
- Trusting adults.
- Sharing attention.
- Attempting unfamiliar tasks.
- Resolving conflicts.
- Asking for help.
- Managing change.

"We intentionally stopped giving labels to individuals & started creating pictures of their developmental journey" - Dr Bruce Perry



Creatively assess how children think, feel & learn: free play, art, music, blob trees, strength cards & Boxall Profiling.

Record rich observations and ask open questions: What do you see when they listen? How do they express themselves? Which objects or activities are calming?

Have proactive discussions with parents/carers about significant life events, strengths, interests & preferences.

Scaffolding for Developmental Differences

Specific: Clear & concise language with time for processing.

Accessible: Show what you mean and think out loud.

Manageable: Small steps & a "just right" challenge.

Regulating: Brain breaks & opportunities for choice.

Meaningful: Draw on prior knowledge & real-life examples.

Fun: Activities which elicit curiosity, laughter & satisfaction.

