

Little Dukes: Nursery Golden Rules

1. Always put the child first, they are more important than any colleague, any visitor, or any urgent task.
2. Always put respect at the forefront of everything you do: Respect your children, respect your colleagues, respect your working environment. Never talk about a child and their needs or concerns in front of them, a colleague or a parent unless it's in a private meeting.
3. Always ask the child's permission before providing intimate care - "Can I wipe your nose? Can I check your nappy?". Never grab a child's nappy to check.
4. Always use a gentle voice and manner when speaking or acting in the nursery: never shout across the classroom, never shout at a child, never push or pull a child to get them to do something.
5. Always get down to a child's height when you enter a room or talk to a child. Make eye contact at their level, give them your attention and listen.
6. Always use language appropriate for the child's age, don't talk down to them, don't confuse them with overly complicated words or explanations but do stretch their vocabulary and inspire them to learn.
7. Always use positive language around children, motivate them to try and try again. Never use negative labels for a child e.g., shy, cheeky, naughty.
8. Always give children time to think and answer when you ask them questions – count to 10 - and try to ask open-ended questions where possible. Never interrupt.
9. Always allow children to try to be as independent as possible, helping children to help themselves rather than doing everything for them – even if it takes longer!
10. Always ask for help when you need it, we are a team!

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