At Old Park Nursery we are starting to adopt the Planning in the Moment approach.

What is planning in the moment?

Planning in the moment is all about seizing the moment for children to progress. Based on what the children are already deeply involved in, this way of planning relies on skilled practitioners using quality interactions to draw out the children's knowledge and build on it there and then (in the moment). This means that the practitioner identify the teachable moment from the child's perspective and recognise when to intervene and when to stand back and observe.

Planning in the moment is all about capturing the moment of engagement and running with it to make sure the children progress.

Jane Wotherspoon HMI (quoted in an Early Years Course by Anna Ephgrave 24.01.14) states "Teaching... is all those different things that you do as an adult that help young children learn... communicating, modelling language, working with children as they initiate their own play and activities, being ready to intervene on the moment, demonstrating how to do something, explaining why something is as it is, showing children something, exploring ideas with them, encouraging them, questioning them, checking what it is they are understanding, helping them to record something that they did so that they get the structure and sequence of events, providing a narrative for what they are doing, facilitating what they are doing, setting challenges, all those sorts of things are the sorts of things we mean when we are teaching." (Conference 9.10.13)

Planning in the moment means that Early Years practitioners should be doing all of these things, all day, every day.

The Early Years Framework 2014 states:

"1.6. Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and must use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development."

Planning in the moment fully allows this to happen and encourages the children to pursue their own interests.

The Learning Environment

This way of planning means that the learning environment (both the indoor environment and outdoor environment) constantly need to be reviewed and adapted to ensure that the children's level of involvement and their activity is constantly deep.