



StartBright

# Parent Handbook

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# Welcome to StartBright

At StartBright we aim to deliver and progress the development of early childhood learning and care through learning experiences that are child-centred, responsive to the needs of children, families and communities, located in a warm, safe and welcoming environment, and underpinned by the quality principles and practices of Aistear and Siolta.



**“Play is the work of the child.”**

*- Maria Montessori*

## Our Mission Statement

We will develop, deliver and champion early learning services for children, particularly for those living in communities experiencing disadvantage. We will communicate our vision and values more clearly and develop our organisation so that we deliver excellent services in an open and honest way.

## Our Curriculum

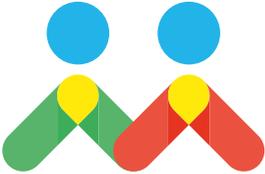
StartBright recognises that children learn best through play and a child led curriculum. We provide a balance between structured and unstructured opportunities and intentional strategies to enable lots of play-based learning. We champion that a quality and holistic early learning experience at a StartBright centre supports a positive beginning to every child's learning journey.

# Our Programs



## Infancy

StartBright values care routines as opportunities for learning, building relationships and developing independence. This intimate time in infancy is supported in partnership with meaningful and respectful play experiences and opportunities.



## Preschool

StartBright provides a secure, respectful and nurturing environment that supports children to be capable learners and unique individuals. Preschool is seen as a time of investigation, independence and enquiry. We allow time and space for this process.



## After School

StartBright values the role afterschool plays in a student's life. We aim to provide an environment that supports research, allows children to take calculated risks and have ownership over their spaces and learning journey.



# Our Vision and Values

## StartBright Vision

Our vision is that all children have equality of opportunity.

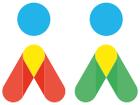
## StartBright Values

The values that underpin our work and everything we do are:



### Child Centered

Being child centred, nurturing healthy relationships, strengthening emotional resilience and empowering children to think, grow and explore in a fun and creative way.



### Inclusive

Providing inclusive, accessible, affordable childcare and early learning services in communities experiencing disadvantage.



### Excellence

Providing excellent services, that are externally validated, and quality assured in a safe, secure, warm and happy environment.



### Non-judgmental

Being non-judgmental and supporting each child to achieve their personal best. We prioritize communicating and developing strong relationships with both children and their families.



### Honest

Operating to the highest possible standards in terms of honesty, professionalism, transparency and accountability.

# Key elements of The StartBright Curriculum

- The voice of the child is respected, valued and frames our whole curriculum.
- A child led, emergent curriculum is delivered which addresses children's well-being, identity and belonging, communication and exploring and thinking. This is supported by the principles of Aistear and Síolta.
- The role of the educator is one of researcher, collaborator and facilitator. We work alongside children offering support in their learning journey.
- Partnerships with family and communities are valued. Parents are the first educator of the child and communities play an important role in our culture and identity.
- The environments and resources are chosen with children's interests and development in mind. They are the third educator.
- Observing, planning, documenting and assessing learning are important to provide a holistic, child focused curriculum.

StartBright is committed to developing a curriculum that incorporates child development and creates a child led, play based environment, which enables children to actively pursue their own learning. We encapsulate Aistear and Síolta into our everyday routines and look to both national and international quality standards to provide a holistic, inclusive curriculum for each child.

Outdoor play is a priority of our StartBright centres as it paramount to physical development and health, especially mental health. We value the outdoor environment just as much as our indoor environment and so actively engage in outdoor play every day, regardless of the weather. We supply raingear and wellies in all our services, so children have freedom to engage and explore the outside world without limitations.

# Role of the educator

At StartBright we only employ the best educators to support our vision for Early Education. We look for passionate, experienced and dynamic educators because we truly believe your children deserve only the best.

Educators are seen as the researcher, collaborator and facilitator. We do not see ourselves as holding all the answers, but we engage and intertwine our own discovery with that of the children's. We follow their questions and thinking, challenging them to theorize, hypothesize and wonder. Their voice leads the way, the educators merely guide and support them along the journey. We offer provocations to deepen their understanding and open their mind to opportunities and possibilities.

Educators do not offer the answers, they lead the children to their own answers.

## Starting your journey with StartBright

We offer all our families an in-depth orientation upon commencement. Here, the families will meet the staff and management of the centre. Policies and procedures along with paperwork and fee information will be discussed. We aim to offer as much support as we can so that this transition is a positive one for both you and your child. Your child's key worker, the educator responsible for your child's documentation will discuss the curriculum and daily routine of the centre. This is a great opportunity to start those lasting relationships so please advise us of the wonderful and magical moments that your child provides you with. Communication between home and the centre is so important we want these lines open from day one.

The necessary policies for your child's commencement will be provided to you however, if you seek further guidance on our policies and procedures, they are available in the centre or online at any time.

# Who we are

StartBright will develop, deliver and champion early learning services for all children. Our inclusive and play based pedagogy supports children to grow, learn and connect to others and the world around them.

We will provide the highest quality early childhood education to all children so they will reach their full potential.

- Relationships underpin everything we do here at Startbright, they are the pinnacle of the excellent service we provide.
- At StartBright our passion and love for early education is evident in centres. We are dedicated to quality and so engage in continuous professional development and training. Thus, the children that attend reap the benefits of a very educated and committed team.

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## Contact Us

StartBright Early Learning Centres encourages and supports early learners to become active citizens of the world.

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