

What are the British Values

In 2014 Department for Education introduced “British Values” into all schools and Early Years providers.

Promoting British Values in your setting can be easily achieved. If you think about it wisely you are already doing it. Many people have become confused by the whole term British values, thinking this is about teaching the children about the Queen, Big Ben, black taxis, drinking tea and eating scones. When in fact the British Values should really be referred to as human values such as sharing, turn taking, teaching children about respecting other views and celebrating other culture and faiths. It is not all about teaching the children about being British as children should learn about all faiths and cultures and engage in different celebrations.

The British Values is divided into four categories;

- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Rule of Law
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance for those with different faiths

These values are not something new that needs introducing they should be happening in early years settings all the time.

Rule of Law - Promote the understanding that we have to follow Rules and that they are there for a reason. This is promoted through daily practice, through the behaviour management policy. Also by having a shared expectation and set of rules, and through delivering consequences,

Democracy means: Giving children choices and showing them that their views and opinions are valued and taken into account. This is promoted through shared decision

making and as part of daily practice. It is important that as part of this process, feelings and emotions are discussed and addressed. For the younger children practitioners can support decision making by providing activities that involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration.

Individual Liberty means: Creating high self esteem and self worth in the children. This is promoted through personal, social and emotional development and is a value that is important to create in all children. Allowing them to have an opinion and to create a positive sense of themselves.

Mutual respect and tolerance means: To treat others as you wish to be treated. This is promoted through an understanding that everyone is allowed to have an opinion and to express themselves. Educate the children about others views and opinions as understanding can promote acceptance. Be inclusive of cultures/religions/genders/ages and abilities. Challenge children's perception, such as pink is for girls and boys must have short hair.

Here are a few ideas of how to actively promote the British Values in your setting

- Using stories to help children learn about feelings
- Introduce golden rules through the nursery
- Look at ways at how you're following children's choices and preferences.
Eg tracks children around the room and make a note of what resources/toys they access and this may help you when it comes to looking at the layout of the room
- Use resources to help children learn about sharing eg sand timers, objects to hold during circle time etc
- Plan days to celebrate different cultures and faiths and do a display on these
- Invite the community in
- Visit places of interest in your community
- Ask children their opinions on what they would like their role play area to be

- Give children choices during snack time
- Have puppets and persona dolls in the room for children to freely access
- Ask children what activities they would like to do
- If looking to renovate an area of the nursery ask the children their views
- Include children in helping to create a display
- Include children's voices on the planning