

ISA®

# Nursery





# The Nursery Programme

The ISA Nursery programme is designed for two to three-year olds, introducing children to learning in an educational setting and preparing them for enrolment in the Primary Years Programme.

The programme is based on developmentally appropriate practice with an emphasis on a child's social-emotional development and well-being.

Through free-choice and small group activities, children will begin to explore friendships with children their own age, experience playing in different situations and develop a sense of belonging in the class. Over the year, they will begin to join in with self-care routines and will learn how to separate from parents and other caregivers to develop positive relationships with adults outside of their immediate family circle.

Children are not expected to be toilet trained to join the programme. ISA provides regular changing times and appropriate changing facilities. Once a child is fully toilet trained at home then they will be able to use the child-sized toilets inside the Nursery unit.







## The Value of Play

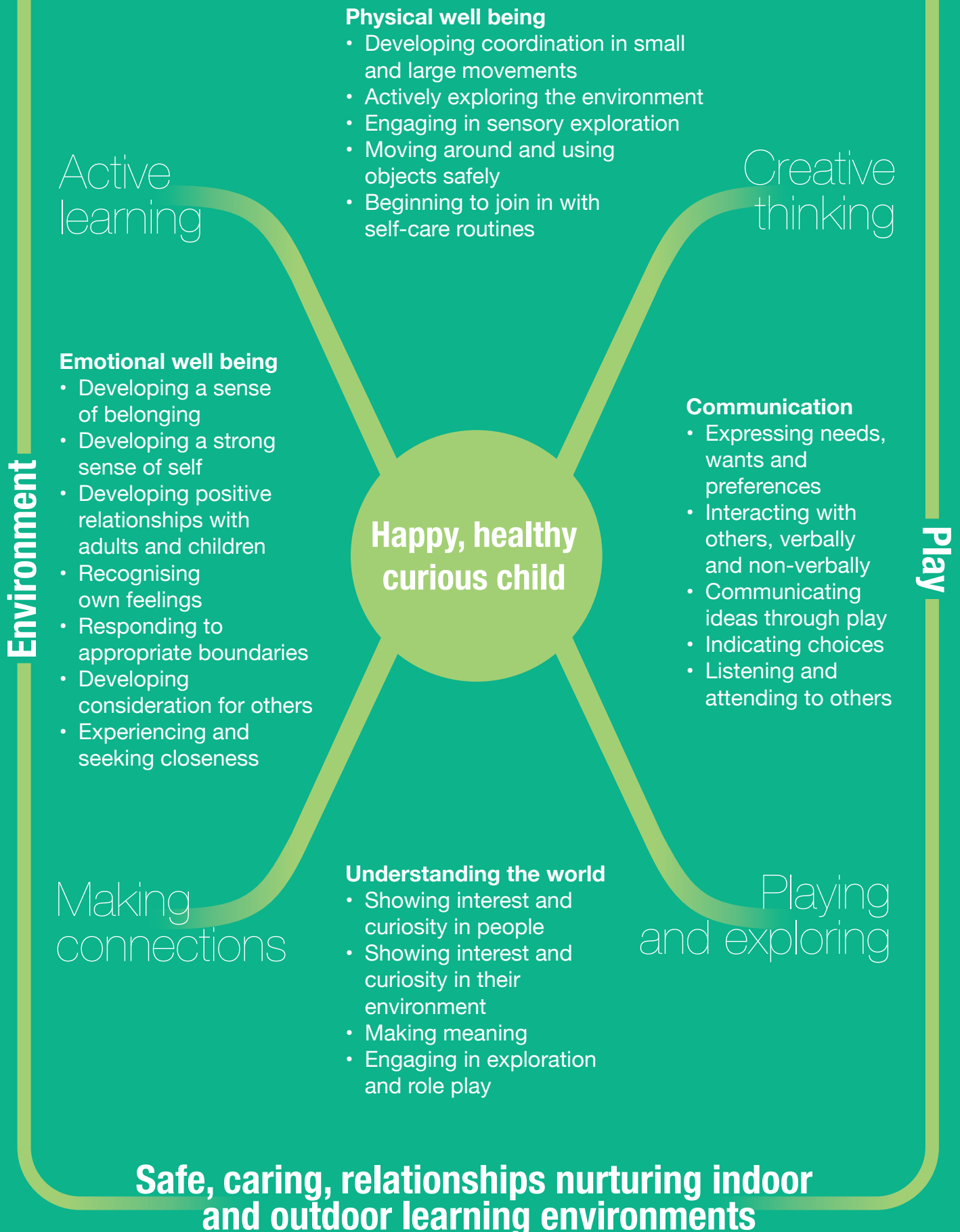
*"Play is the highest form of research"* Albert Einstein

Through play, children will explore their immediate environment and begin to make sense of the world around them. The nursery programme at ISA values outdoor play and therefore children are encouraged to spend some time everyday outdoors, all year round, to fully experience the different sorts of weather. There are opportunities for indoor and outdoor learning, engagement in sensory exploration activities and opportunities to develop creative and motor skills in different ways.

There are role-play opportunities for children to develop their communication skills and story-times where language will be continually extended. The language-rich environment provides multiple experiences for each child's verbal and non-verbal communication skills to grow in both English and, when possible, their home language. There will be an emphasis on how each child expresses their needs, wants and preferences. Your child will have opportunities to listen to others and share ideas in whole class and group situations.

Our Nursery is a self-contained unit with its own outside area, play area, sleep room and bathroom that the children access throughout the morning. All children in the Nursery programme have access to the additional learning areas in the Early Childhood centre: the library, the gym, the nursery atelier, music room and teaching kitchen; usually in small groups with their teacher or assistant.

# Meaningful provocations and experiences engaging the child





# A day in the Nursery

In the Nursery there is a ratio of one adult to 6 children and a maximum of 20 children. Each child will belong to an assigned group which is led by the teaching assistants. The assigned nursery staff member will help you to understand the daily practicalities around food, toileting and separation. These groups are overseen by the full-time nursery teacher who carefully guides the pedagogical practices and over sees learning for all of the children. The team works closely with families to ensure open communication and strong collaboration bridging the child's home and school life.

A typical day begins with arrival to the Nursery, greeting the adults in the room and settling in, followed by separation from the parent or caregiver. We offer flexible drop-off times to allow families with children in other grades to deliver siblings to different sections of the school. All children should have arrived in class by 09:00 (10:00 on Fridays).

There is a welcome time, where the children gather together. Following this, the children have the opportunity to explore different types of learning areas and engage in play alongside their classmates. Children have the opportunity to eat a snack during their morning routine.

To provide variety each day, there is a focused activity available, such as visits to the library, gym or kitchen as well as open-ended learning opportunities both within and outside of the classroom.

At the end of the morning, the children gather together for a group activity such as singing, playing a game or sharing a story.

## Lunch

The class eat lunch together in smaller assigned groups. We ask that children bring a packed lunch from home, so that you can provide food which is healthy and that your child likes to eat. Please also pack a water bottle every day for your child. The adults encourage children to eat their lunch and anything that is not eaten is left in their box.

## Afternoon activities

Following lunch, the adult assists all the children in getting ready for a rest time. This includes a nappy/diaper changing time. Each child has their own bed to lie in, and the room lights will be dimmed to enable the children to sleep or rest in their own space.

After sleeping the children are slowly woken up and gathered together for a sharing of a fruit snack. Reading of a story marks the end of the school day. The children then get ready to say goodbye to the class and are collected by their parent or care-giver. Parents may collect children from the Nursery from 15:15 to accommodate families that need to collect older siblings from their homeroom classes. All children should be collected by 15:25 from the Nursery.







## Nursery facility features

- 1 play room
- 1 sleep room
- 1 atelier
- A self-contained outside play area
- A self-contained toilet and nappy/diaper changing facilities

20 children, 1 full-time teacher, 3 full-time assistants and 1 play supervisor.

Access to additional learning areas: Early Childhood gym, teaching kitchen, music room and library.

Bed provided for rest time.