

It is important that the nursery feels connected to its community, that if we were not here local people would miss us. Children are taken out on little trips, to the shops, to post a letter

Children also visit Gibside to experience openness, space, large leaf-falls, strong winds and sense of size, number and scale of trees.

Local trips and educational visits as a context for development and learning in the EYFS

Trips enhance children's personal, social and emotional development by providing opportunities for exploring the environment with interest, finding and enjoying new features. Going out helps children to learn about staying safe around people they do not know, and around traffic. Children can learn to manage changes in routine, to feel safe in new situations and adapt their behaviour.

Going out of the nursery also supports children's developing communication, language and literacy as they talk about what they are doing and collaborate with others. Often there is a "language explosion" as children see cars, trains, pets and shops and vocalise or talk in response to what they see. Children will often have to follow instructions from an adult, listening carefully. Taking sketch pads provides an opportunity for emergent writing; looking at and talking about print in the environment, including street signs, shop and car logos supports early reading.

Children can develop their problem-solving, reasoning and numeracy in large open spaces by locating themselves relative to other children and adults, using the language of position. Tube and bus journeys provide opportunities to recognise numbers for a purpose and to count, and to follow maps and routes using the language of position and direction. There are many opportunities to respond to and recognise different shapes in the environment, and to observe symmetry.

Trips out help children to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world, exploring large unfamiliar areas and observing change associated with the seasons. Children may talk about what they see and the features of different environments. Travelling by bus provides a context for discussion about how things work. Children can operate ICT (e.g. a digital camera, Pelican Crossings, lift buttons).

Children's physical development is supported by opportunities to explore through movement, with toddlers especially relishing having plenty of time to stop and take an interest. Older children can develop their strength and stamina by walking for long periods and using stairs. Children's creative development is supported as children respond in different ways to the rich textures, sounds, smells and things they see, which will often enhance their pretend play back in nursery, especially when adults resource this (e.g. by setting up a bus station)