



Violet Melchett

Children's Centre



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



Personal, social and emotional development

Children in our setting are provided with experiences and support which will help them develop: self confidence, respect for others, social skills, and a positive disposition to learn.

Welcome

Welcome to Violet Melchett Children's Centre.

At our centre the team and I work in partnership with families to ensure that children are given the best opportunity to reach their full potential. We achieve this by supporting families from the earliest days of parenthood through to the time when their children start school. Our centre is responsive to families and children in the local community and we wish to reflect their wishes and needs.

We aim above all to support all aspects of family life, including health, early education, social well-being and inclusion. We want to deliver a service that helps empower parents and children to develop close relationships and to build a strong and vibrant community in the process. Every Child Matters to us!

The centre is situated in the heart of Chelsea, in Flood Street, just off the King's Road. The building houses both the children's centre and a busy health centre with health staff and early years practitioners working in close partnership for the benefit of all children and families.

The children's centre is warm and welcoming. It is located on the ground and first floor of the building and the childcare rooms are spacious and bright. There are gardens for children situated both on the roof terrace and in the rear courtyard. There are meeting rooms and community spaces used for group and family activities. There is a parents' room, a children's library and a dedicated sensory room. We believe that children's growth and development is enhanced in this safe and stimulating environment. This ethos is very much emphasized in all parts of the centre.

We co-ordinate a large number of services to support children and families. These include activities related to health care and health promotion as well as specialised group sessions for adult education and training, and play and exercise sessions for parents and babies. Our programme is supported by professionals from health and other agencies, as well as by staff members and parents. There is a weekly plan in the centre that describes the range of services on offer.

Parents, service deliverers and staff meet every three months to monitor, evaluate and support the centre's development. These meetings enable the centre to identify the strengths and weaknesses of activities and improve services to meet local needs and expectations. Parents and carers are very welcome to join this group. We hope this prospectus gives an insight into daily life at Violet Melchett. Please contact the centre if you wish to make an appointment to visit us.

Laura Coletti

Children's Centre Manager





Communication, language and literacy

Children in our setting are supported to become competent communicators. By creating a range of daily experiences and situations, we provide experiences to support and extend their speech, listening skills, and ability to read and write.

Our Children's Centre

Our aim

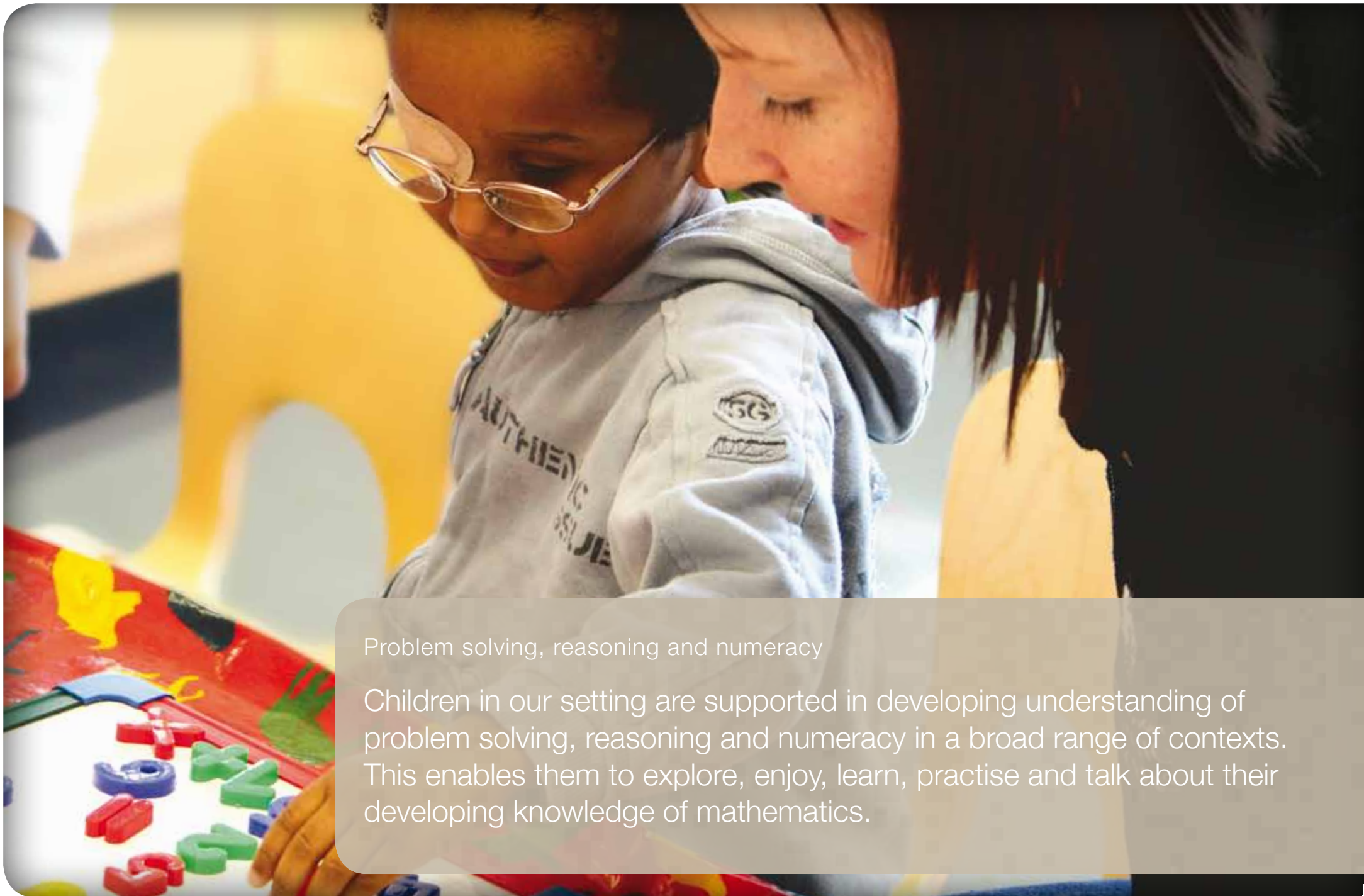
Violet Melchett Children's Centre provides childcare and early years education to children aged three months to five years.

Our aim is to provide a happy and nurturing environment in which children grow and develop. We are Ofsted registered and provide high quality full and part-time places. We are proud of the friendly environment we offer children and parents.

Our experienced and dedicated staff offer high standards of support and early education, ensuring that each child is treated as an individual and supported to reach his or her full potential.

We value the opportunity to work closely with parents and ensure that we make every effort to involve them in supporting their children's early acquisition of knowledge and skills.





Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

Children in our setting are supported in developing understanding of problem solving, reasoning and numeracy in a broad range of contexts. This enables them to explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk about their developing knowledge of mathematics.

Our vision

Together, we will provide a high quality, integrated and caring service with children, parents and carers at its heart. The service will empower all children to lead happy and healthy lifestyles, and to make the very most of their potential. We will ensure that their experiences are continuously promoted and enhanced.

Our work is underpinned by six key values:

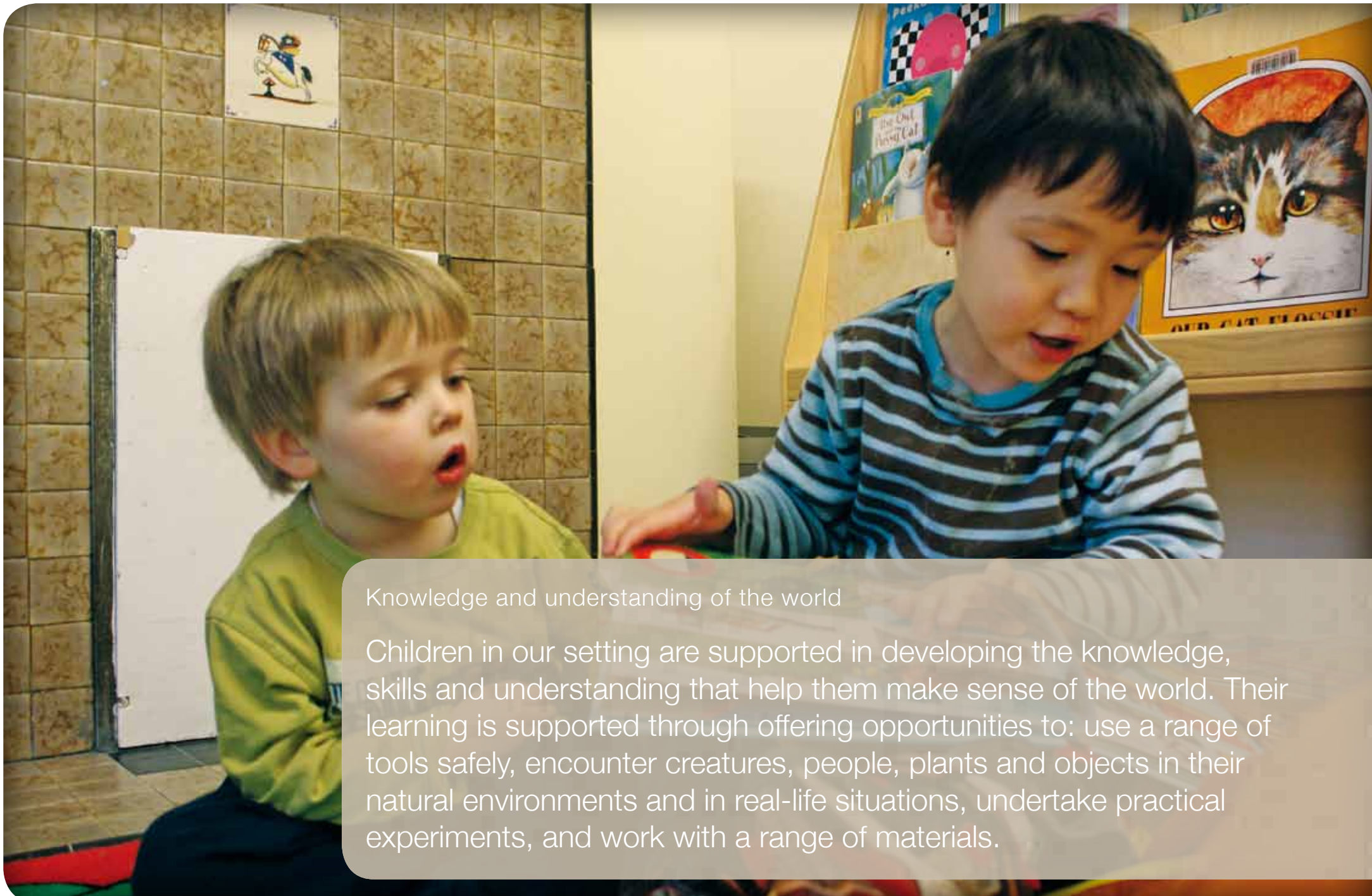
- **We believe** that *all* children should be offered the very best environment and resources, with dedicated and skilled staff who enjoy their work and share high aspirations for what each and every child can achieve.
- **We celebrate** the individuality and rich cultural diversity that promotes integration and a strong community spirit within our local community.
- **We provide** the very highest standard of care, with particular emphasis on health and well-being, within a stimulating and progressive environment.
- **We believe** that all children have the right to enjoy learning through play in a happy, safe and secure indoor and outdoor setting that challenges and extends children's knowledge and skills.
- **We value** the expertise and experience of everyone who plays a part in delivering this service. This includes: children, parents and carers, their extended families and the wider community.
- **We value** clear communication with our clients based on equality, honesty, respect and empathy.



Our principles

Our vision and values are delivered through the following approaches:

- a focused, child-centred environment
- committed, play-based learning
- a caring key person system
- effective planning for learning
- robust communication with our partners
- strong team work
- highly qualified and motivated staff.



Knowledge and understanding of the world

Children in our setting are supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them make sense of the world. Their learning is supported through offering opportunities to: use a range of tools safely, encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real-life situations, undertake practical experiments, and work with a range of materials.

How we are organised

Our centre is organised effectively to support older children mixing with younger children. Small groups of children of varying ages will be supported by a key worker. We believe that this system is best suited to the delivery of the new Early Years Foundation Stage, as it enables us to meet children's emotional and social needs in a much more natural and family-oriented way.

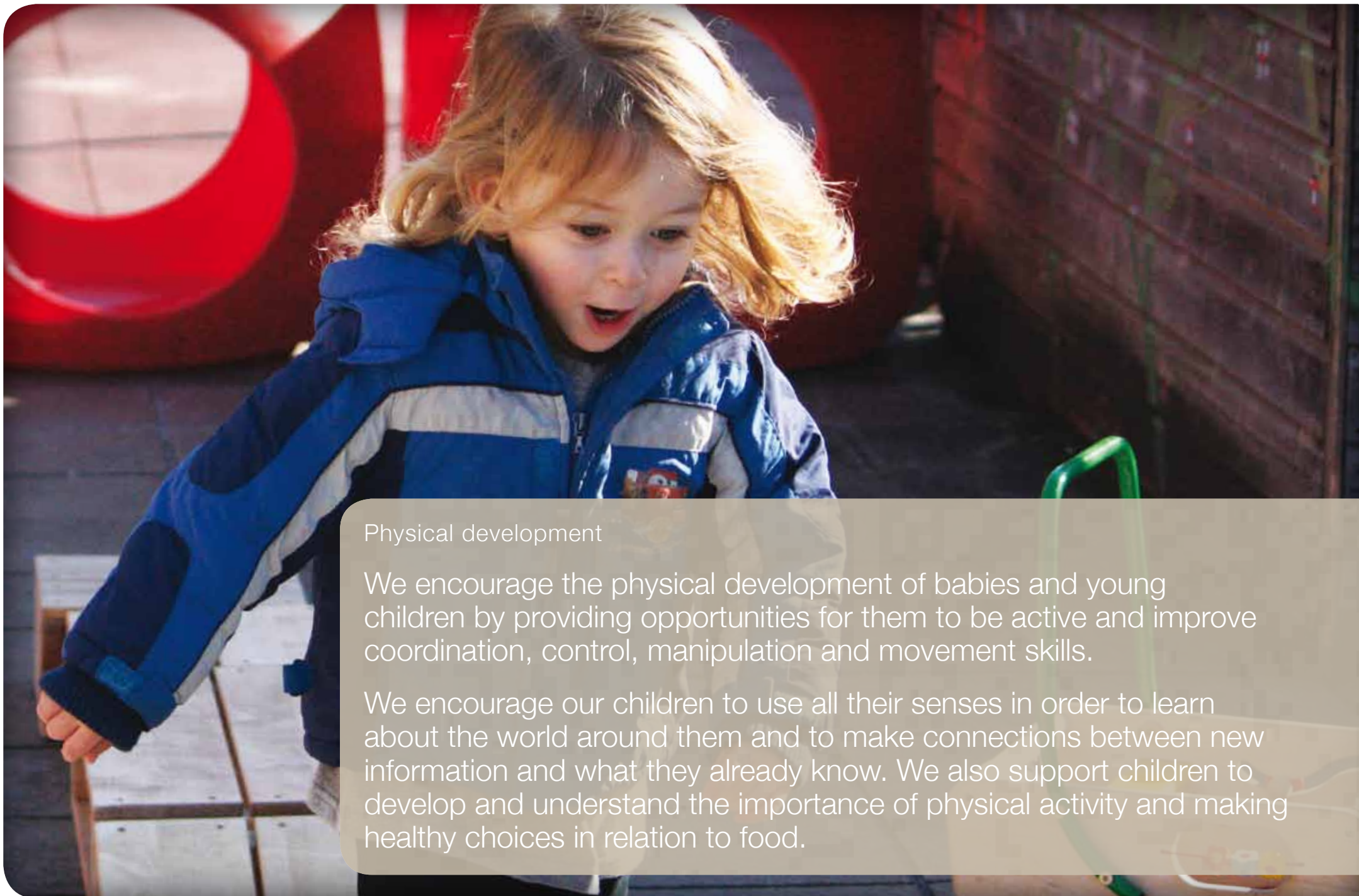
What we offer

At Violet Melchett Children's Centre, we believe that every child is unique; each child is a competent learner from birth and our role is to support children to become resilient, capable confident and self-assured. We create an inclusive environment in which children are respected and learn to love and trust each other.

Play is also vital for children. It is through play that babies and young children learn, grow and have fun. It helps them understand the world and develop both socially and emotionally. Singing songs, reading together, playing games with letters and numbers, and having fun with friends gives them a good head start in life.

We believe all children should be able to play and learn in a stimulating environment with adults who understand and care about them. We want parents to feel confident about leaving their children with us, knowing that our aim is to support development, education and play.





Physical development

We encourage the physical development of babies and young children by providing opportunities for them to be active and improve coordination, control, manipulation and movement skills.

We encourage our children to use all their senses in order to learn about the world around them and to make connections between new information and what they already know. We also support children to develop and understand the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food.

Balanced diets

Our resident cooks prepare well-balanced, home-cooked food for children on site and try to cater for every type of special dietary requirement. They use a mixture of local fresh ingredients as much as possible.

We ensure that meal times are family moments when children and staff can relax and talk about the day's events. Children also learn to serve themselves and to help the younger children at the table.





Creative development

We help children in our setting extend their creativity by providing opportunities to develop curiosity and the enjoyment of exploration through play.

We also encourage children to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role play activities, mathematics, and design and technology.

Finance

Violet Melchett Children's Centre is registered to receive Nursery Education Grant (NEG) for the children who are entitled to it. We also accept Nursery Vouchers from employers.

We encourage families to apply for the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit, as this can provide up to 80 per cent off your nursery fees.



Settling in

We want children to be happy at nursery and for this reason we believe that parents have to feel comfortable about the environment and what we offer. Every child is different and it is important that when each child starts, parents share their views and concerns with the nursery.

We listen to the wishes and concerns of parents before children start, encouraging them to visit the nursery and settle children in over a period of days. This helps both children and parents become familiar with the staff members, the routines and the surroundings.

Health and safety

Violet Melchett Children's Centre is registered under **the Children Act 1989**. We are legally obliged to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and abide by Ofsted guidelines.

Suspected instances of child abuse or neglect are dealt with by the nursery in the first instance; if deemed necessary, the local authority Child Protection Team may be called to intervene.

We have agreed policies for safeguarding and child protection, equal opportunities, and health and safety. We have dedicated personnel to ensure we maintain high standards in each of these areas.





Opening times

Violet Melchett Children's Centre is open for **51 weeks per year** from **8am to 5.45pm, Monday to Friday.**

Contact us

By post: Violet Melchett Children's Centre
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Phone: 020 7938 8621

Email: infovmchildrenscentre@rbkc.gov.uk



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