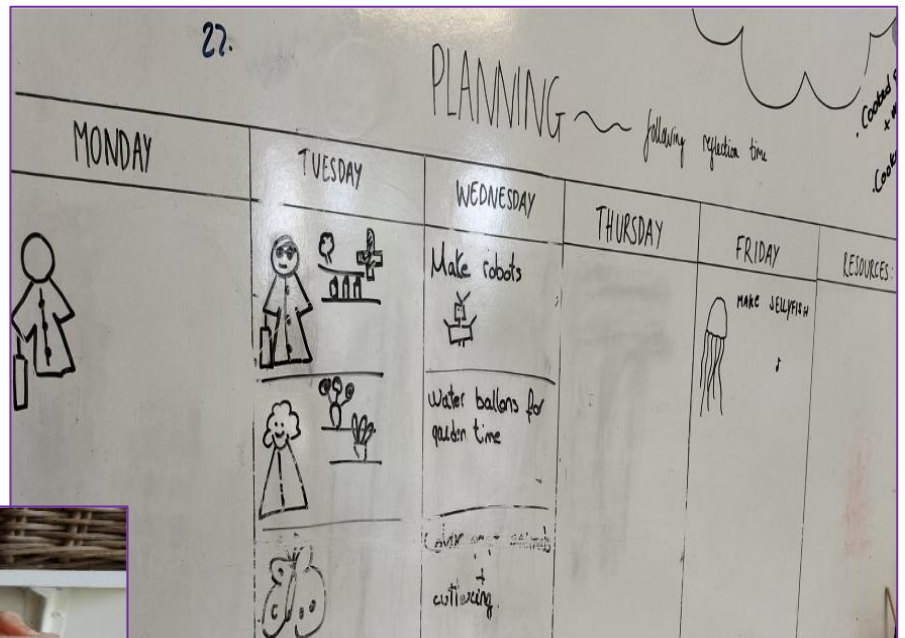




At Magic Roundabout Day Nursery the team referred to Dimension 6 'Observations Planning and Assessment' and Dimension 3 'Researchful and Reflective Practitioners' to identify their strengths and consider how children in the setting are benefitting from these.

During staff meetings we asked a member of the team from each room to discuss a provocation, how this has supported child development, what learning took place and how this can be adapted and developed. Also considering the 3 I's. Practitioners from other rooms then reflected on how this provocation could be enabled in their rooms.



'We developed reflective time in preschool to allow children to take part in a small group time to discuss what they have enjoyed throughout their day and what they would like to do next- thus further challenging their ideas and providing stimulating and exciting provocations for children'

We decided to make a typical Spanish soup called 'Gazpacho', as part of our cooking activities, while exploring the children's interest in different vegetables and fruit.





During the experience the children were learning to use different cooking appliances, in this case a blender and also the method of straining using a sieve.



Following the children's interest in nature and the changes in the season, we went for a nature walk to a local park. After that, the children noticed the changes in our garden area and were keen to paint on canvas the blossom on the plum tree that was in full bloom.

We are a researchful and reflective team and were influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach which sees the environment as the 3rd teacher and has an important role to play in children's curiosity and their independence in exploring the available resources. The environment is open, light and flexible to allow for children's ideas and interests to blossom and thrive. Atelier areas are spaces within the environments that are set up in an inviting way where a variety of resources and creative opportunities are available for children.



The focus is on exploring materials such as clay, light, shadow, paint, wire and paper.

We have set up Atelier areas in our toddler and preschool rooms and these spaces are continually evolving with the children's creative ideas.





The impact of our Reggio Emilia inspired Atelier environment is a real celebration and the practitioners have noticed how children have benefitted through increased levels of engagement.

Using a Bristol Standard Birth to Five Framework question like these below could help you begin your reflective, quality improvement journey...

Identify something you have noticed that could become an action research project; think about where you are now? Where do you want to be? And how will you get there?

In what ways do you challenge yourselves to think critically about your practice and impact on children's learning and development?

How do you encourage everyone to recognize the value of researchful practice in developing our setting's pedagogy and how do you create space to discuss theoretical ideas about childhood development?

Dimension 3: The Reflective and Researchful Practitioner

