**M3 Explain how effective empowerment of children can benefit their development, using appropriate examples.**

* You need to **explain** **how** effective empowerment of children can **benefit** their **development**.
* Use a case study to provide appropriate examples.
* **Explain** how the setting empowers children in ways appropriate to their **age/stage** of development.

**D3 Assess the extent to which an early years setting is successful in empowering children, using a case study.**

* You are expected to **make a judgement** about how successful an early years setting has been in empowering children and why their approaches have been successful in ensuring children are involved in decisions that affect them.

**Little Bud’s Nursery**

**Routine for the children**

Arrive to be registered in their classes. There are four classes, yellow, red, green and blue. These are generally based on the age of the children with yellow being the youngest. The teacher or nursery nurse in charge of the class is the children’s key person/ worker. The children must all wear a uniform of a Little Bud’s Nursery polo shirt, Little Bud’s Nursery sweatshirt and leggings for girls and tracksuit bottoms/ jogging bottoms for boys.

The children self register by picking out the picture of themselves and sticking this to the wall. The children are also given the opportunity to express how they are feeling at this point. They can put their picture up on the wall next to ‘happy’, ‘sad’, ‘shy’ or ‘frustrated’. This gives the teacher the opportunity to understand how they are feeling.

The children will then stay in this class for 45 minutes whereby the teacher/ key worker will lead an activity (adult led play). This activity may vary such as in the art corner, outside or in the story book area. The children are encouraged to participate with all activities, there is little freedom for them to choose another activity at this time.

For the following hour and 15 minutes the children will have their ‘free time’ (child initiated play). They can choose any activity that they would like to play, this can be inside or outside. The teacher/ key worker will supervise the children and help them if they need any support, such as putting on their coat and hat, washing their hands and going to the toilet.

All children then must participate in tidying up the nursery, this is regardless if they have been inside or outside.

Each group is then given the opportunity to go to the toilet, wash their hands and have a drink and snack. The snack will consist of a different fruit each day and either milk or water. There is only one option of fruit available each day, for example Monday they will have an apple, Tuesday a pear etc. If the child does not like a particular piece of fruit they can bring in a piece of fruit from home. If the child does not like milk, they can have water only.

Finally, there is a large group activity at the end of the day such as a story time or singing. They will then go back to their class to be registered once more before going home.

Only certain people known to the child can pick them up from nursery for safety reasons. If a parent/ guardian/ childminder cannot pick up the child for any reason, they must inform the nursery as to who will be picking the child up. The child can only go home with that adult if the adult knows the personalised password. If they do not know the password, the child will not be allowed to leave with the adult.

Some children may have experienced little choices at home. They may have never had the opportunity to make any decisions therefore it is important for the teacher to teach them how to make decisions and what the consequences are of those decisions. Some children may find it overwhelming to be able to make their own decisions, they may look to other children and follow their lead/ copy the choices they make. Some will respond really well and will enjoy the freedom and ability to express themselves.

**Set-up**

To enter the nursery you must go through two outside gates, these are padlocked and therefore a member of staff is needed to let you in.

All doors to offices/ kitchen/ cupboards have a lock high up on the door.

There are four small classrooms branching off from the main area, this is where the register is taken for that class and some adult initiated activities may take place.

There are typically 45 children at the nursery. As far as possible, children with any special needs or children that have little English will be equalled out between the classes. This helps with inclusive practice.

**Discipline**

The nursery will base their behaviour policy on positive praise. They try to focus on the things the children do well as opposed to the bad things they do. An awards system of a ‘golden tie’ is given to four children each week, this is to celebrate their successes over the week. They try to ensure all children may receive this over the duration of the year. Children are also given stickers on reward charts to celebrate their good behaviour. If the child has shown bad behaviour the first step in the behaviour policy is to talk to the child and explain why their behaviour was unacceptable. If the child repeats this behaviour they may be given a time out, this will be for approximately 1-2 minutes. Again, if this behaviour continues, the parents/ guardians will be informed. It is not often that the nursery will be faced with bad behaviour, this is rare and in the most cases this will be linked to children who may have special needs.

**STUDENT GUIDANCE**

**M3 Explain how effective empowerment of children can benefit their development, using appropriate examples.**

*You now must answer and* ***explain*** *the following questions;*

* How are the children **empowered** at the nursery? *(What decisions/ choices can they make for themselves? How are they taught skills and to take responsibility?)* Provide **examples.**
* How do/ will the children **benefit** from the empowerment they receive at the nursery? *(Think about key terms such as independence, responsibility, confidence, valued, teaching life skills, how the empowerment promotes areas of development).* Provide **examples.**
* How does the nursery empower children in ways appropriate to their **age/stage** of development? Provide **examples**.

**D3 Assess the extent to which an early years setting is successful in empowering children, using a case study.**

*You now must answer and* ***explain*** *the following questions;*

* How **successful** is the nursery at empowering children? Provide **reasons**/ **justify** your answers.
* Why have these **empowering approaches** been successful in ensuring children are involved in decisions that affect them? Provide **reasons**/ **justify** your answers.
* Do you think there are any **choices** that the children should be able to make that the nursery doesn’t provide? Why is this important? Provide **reasons**/ **justify** your answers.
* Does the nursery provide appropriate **age/stage** empowerment (choices/ decisions)? Provide **reasons**/ **justify** your answers.
* Provide an overall **opinion/ judgement** about the nursery and how successful they are at empowering children.
* Are there any **improvements** they should make?