

Welcome to Pre-School

Play is a child's work

A guide to Pre -School Curriculum



Three years of age has arrived and it's time for your child to move to Pre-School, to make new friends and learn new things.

We want to make the move as smooth as possible but you will notice a few differences in the running of our room.

The main change is the ratio of staff to children is now 1:8. We find that this can encourage your child to be more independent and we allow your child to do more for themselves in preparation for school.

Simple things such as putting on their coats or shoes, helping tidy away toys, helping at break time to give out cups or plates and going out to the toilet by themselves encourages independence.

We encourage your child's self esteem by praising them on small every day tasks which can seem very big tasks when you are three. Things such as saying well done or good job when they completed a jigsaw or thread buttons onto a string and we always display craft relating to the bi monthly theme on our boards.

We will send your child's work home so together you and your child can review all their hard work they have completed. However in Pre school we compile journals through out **your child's stay in our room and much of the theme related craft will go into this.** We also do group craft sessions completing projects together to encourage amongst other things social bonding. Therefore your child may not seem to bring home as much craft home as they did in previous rooms but be assured we are always getting creative and messy!!!

We believe that you the parents play a vital role in your child's pre school experience and we like to keep you informed as much as possible. We do feel that it is important that you talk to your child about what they have done in nursery that day as it is a good tool **for developing speech and language.** However, please be aware that after a hard day's work our child may not want to tell you everything that went on during their day.

In a typical pre school day your child will have amongst other things: interacted in small and large group situations, made decisions for themselves, got more confident, listened and retained information, recognised feelings and emotions, communicated with others, problem solved, counted, enriched fine and gross motor skills through crafts, games, and toys, taken part in scientific and mathematic experiments, enhanced imaginative skills, understood about the world and environment around them and recognised the importance **of boundaries and rules (though that's not to say they will not try to test them!)**

We are always here to if you want to discuss any issues your have regarding your child and on behalf of the Pre-School team can I wish you and your child a happy and enjoyable time with us.

Denise and Team

Our play sessions are designed to allow your child to thrive in every developmental area and prepare them for school.

"Play that is well-planned and pleasurable helps children to think, to increase their understanding and to improve their language competence. It allows children to be creative, to explore an investigate materials, to experiment and to draw and test their conclusions... such experience is important in catching and sustaining children's interests and motivating their learning as individuals and in co-operation with others." Starting with Quality, The Rumbold Report, HMSO 1990

We understand that by the time your child is 3 they are energetic, passionate and experienced learners. They are interested in the world around them as well as themselves and they are keen to explore, investigate and learn even more and we want to build on this and educate in a way they can relate too.

Play to a child is their work. Research has shown formal education is not suited to this age and when offered the right stimulation a child will learn more through playing.

So the next time your child is emptying water from one cup to another in the bath just think they are actually acquiring early mathematical concepts such as size, quantity and volume!!!

We carry out bi monthly themes where by we carry out crafts and activities relating to that month. We display what areas of development your child is gaining knowledge in on curriculum plans outside our room, but below is a brief guide of our themes for 2011

Our themes for 2011

January	Winter Time
February	Valentines Day
March	Books and Story Time
April	Pancakes Day, Mothers Day and Easter
May	Food, Fathers Day
June	North West 200
July	Our Bodies
August	Starting School
September	Sports
October	
November	Peoples Jobs
December	Christmas

Examples of what children gain through different types of play

Roleplay

Doctors, Vets, Hairdressing,
Home corner

Communication—Talking and listening

Social—small groups, one to one, sharing, self esteem promoted, feelings and emotions

Motor — gross and fine enhanced by use of different

Size and textures of equipment

Imaginative and knowledge of environment— use of specialised

Equipment, problem solving, decision making

Mathematical- size, time, number, space

Waterplay

Communication—Talking and listening

Mathematical—Volume, size and capacity

Scientific- sinking and floating, temperatures, smells, colours, gravity

Social—small group interaction,

Feelings and emotions, sharing, confidence building

Sensory—different textures of cups, wet or dry, water on skin, bubbles

Motor Skills— hand/eye co-ordination, movement through water, gain control over movement, fine motor when using water toys

Imaginative Skills and knowledge of environment— use of animals, shells, boats, decision making

circle time

Singing, counting, days of week, months of the year, flashcards, stories, alphabet

Intellectual—Talking and listening, retaining information, decision making, following instructions,

Social—large group time,

Taking turns, being aware of needs of others

Emotional— being part of a group, feel secure, bonding with career, change mood and energy levels, increase confidence

Imaginative and knowledge of world— exploring environment, understanding differences in cultures, promotes imagination

Physical— develops eye/ hand co-ordination, increases movement in different ways, strengthen muscles

Building blocks

Communication—Talking and listening

Mathematical—counting, sorting, height, width, shape and size, time

Scientific- colours, gravity

Social—small group interaction,

Feelings and emotions, sharing, confidence building

Sensory—different sizes, textures

Motor Skills— hand/eye co-ordination, movement through water, gain control over movement, fine manipulative

Imaginative Skills and knowledge of environment— use of animals, shells, boats, decision making