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Information for Parents - Prospectus

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www.hopscotchplaygroup.com

Hopscotch Playgroup opened in September 2006 and provides child centred care and early education for children aged between 2 and 5 years.

We have four members of staff as well as several regular volunteers and students. Lorraine Pointon is the team leader and is an experienced early years teacher.



At Hopscotch we aim to provide:-

- a safe, friendly and fun environment
- opportunities for children to gain in confidence as they develop independence and explore an environment away from their homes and families
- a rich environment, enabling children to learn through play and extend their learning through good quality talk and interactions with adults
- a high standard of care
- a range of learning opportunities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

We aim to provide every child at Hopscotch with the same opportunities; no child is discriminated against because of religion, race, gender, ability or background. Resources are chosen with care in order to avoid stereotyping and to offer an environment that reflects the diversity of our multi-cultural society. Children are encouraged to respect one another and to value and celebrate our differences. We will offer opportunities to learn about different religions and cultures.

Special Needs

We aim to be inclusive at Hopscotch and will accept children with special needs, as long as we have the equipment, space and staff expertise to provide for their individual needs. We work closely with parents and other agencies to ensure these needs are met.

Child Protection

We follow the local 'Safeguarding Children' procedures. The safety and protection of the children is our first priority. If we feel a child is at risk, then it is our duty to inform the relevant authorities whose responsibility it is to conduct further investigations.

Behaviour Policy

We aim to provide a caring and friendly environment so that every child can reach her/his full potential. We encourage everyone at Hopscotch, children and adults, to be polite, kind and helpful and to show respect for other people and their property.

We reinforce these values through praise, encouragement and recognition of achievement.



We have a number of policies and procedures that inform our practice, the above is just a brief overview. Copies of all our policies are available at www.hopscotchplaygroup.com, and at Hopscotch, on the parents' signing-in table.

Please ask if you would like to borrow copies.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that all OFSTED registered early years settings and schools work to. It specifies requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. It covers children from birth to the end of the academic year in which they have their 5th birthday. It is a play based and principled approach to childhood experiences and learning.

The introduction to the framework states that "a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up."



The EYFS has four overarching principles. These are:-

1. every child is a **unique child** who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable confident and self-assured;
2. children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**;
3. children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and their parents/carers; and
4. **children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.**



The EYFS recognises that all areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

There is also an emphasis on the characteristics of effective teaching and learning; these being opportunities to **play and explore**, being involved in **active learning** and **creating and thinking critically**.

The overarching principles and characteristics of effective teaching and learning inform three *prime* areas and four *specific* areas. The 3 *prime* areas are:-

1. **Communication and language** ~ giving children opportunities to experience a language rich environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
2. **Physical development** ~ providing opportunities for children to be active and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to develop an awareness of being healthy.
3. **Personal, social and emotional development** ~ developing a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to learn social skills and learn how to manage their feelings.

The 4 *specific* areas through which the *prime* areas are strengthened and applied are:-

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the world
4. Expressive arts and design

The EYFS, its principles and characteristics underpins our approach and informs all we do.

The complete EYFS framework can be found at www.foundationyears.org.uk

Complaints

We aim to work closely with parents for the benefit of children in our care. If you have any concerns or queries please feel free to discuss them with Lorraine, any member of staff or one of the board members (names are displayed in the parents' copy of the policies which are on the signing-in table.)

If an issue cannot be satisfactorily resolved, we do have a complaints procedure or you can make a formal complaint to OFSTED, (Office for Standards in Education):

Telephone: 0300 123 4666

Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk

We warmly welcome visitors and would encourage you and your child to pop in and see us. This will give you an opportunity to meet the staff, ask any questions and pick up a registration form.

To arrange a visit please contact Lorraine on 07909 948 943 or send an email to info@hopscotchplaygroup.com

We look forward to meeting you soon.