

Pre-school Plus

Introduction

The group was originally set up to give the older Pre-school children the experience of a more structured session. This in turn would help the children with the transition to full-time education at school. Now that most children are only with us at Pre-school for one year, we feel that it is important to give the children the experience of a full day. We call it our 'Pre-school Plus' session.

Pre-schools have changed a great deal over a number of years and although the ethos of 'learning through play' is still our main priority, we also plan a curriculum which ensures that we are following the seven **Early Learning Goals** which are made up of three Prime areas and four specific areas:

Three prime:

1. Communication and language;
2. Physical development;
3. Personal, social and emotional development.

Four specific:

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

The Curriculum

At Pre-school Plus, the emphasis is on learning through play and developing skills by working/playing as a team.

The smaller group (approximately 20 children), encourages confidence and develops the children's individual ability to speak, problem solve, work and play in a group situation. These are necessary skills for a smooth and successful transition to 'big school'.

How we plan a half- term.

Over the term, we concentrate on the seven areas of learning. A typical half term curriculum would be as follows:

Week 1 (Communication and Language; Literacy):

Letter Recognition – Showing the children how to find letters around them – at home, road names, road signs, books, magazines and newspapers etc.

Week 2 (Mathematics): Number Recognition – Younger children (3-4 year olds) work mainly with numbers 1-5, although we will use all numbers 1-10. Older children, (4-5 year olds) work with numbers

1-10 or more. We talk to the children about how numbers can be seen all around them e.g. house numbers, numbers on cookers, telephones etc.

Week 3 (Understanding the World):

Science Based: Simple experiments or, when weather permits, looking after the environment by gardening/planting.

Week 4 (Communication and Language; Literacy): Consolidate the learning from week 1.

Week 5 (Mathematics): Consolidate the learning from week 2.

Week 6 (PD): We finish each **half term** with a PE lesson. This lesson prepares children for what to expect at school. **Please remember P.E bags!** We teach the children to undress and put their clothes in neat piles. They then take part in the lesson before dressing and organising themselves again. Finally, we encourage them to remember to take the PE bags home!

Session Structure

The approximate number of children in our group is 20 with three members of staff and one parent helper to run the group.

The session starts at 12.15 pm and finishes at 2.45 pm.

12.15 -12.25 pm - Physical activity such as Parachute, outdoor play, ring games.

12.25 -1.15 pm - Lunch with staff. Children bring a packed lunch.

(*Please cut up any fruit such as grapes and cherry tomatoes, vegetables such as carrots, or foods such as sausages 'lengthways'.

***Please avoid any food containing sesame or nuts - including chocolate spread - nutella).**

1.15-1.30 pm - Story and group chat time This gives the less confident children the opportunity to speak and share information. They are often less likely to be chatty in larger groups. We also play memory games; teaching the children how to remember and recall facts and knowledge.

1.30-2.25 pm - Free play. Tables are set-up to include science based, literacy and numeracy based activities depending on the topic.

2.25-2.45 pm - Topic discussion/ Physical activity and story.

2.45 pm - Home time