



WHIMPLE
Pre-School
& Toddler Group

Welcome to

Whimble Pre-School

Whimble Pre-School,
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Registered Charity No. 1035316



Whimpe Pre-school - Useful Information



Firstly, welcome to Whimpe Pre-school. We know that starting pre-school is a very important milestone in your child's (and your) life. For your child, this could be the first time they have been in a large group, or the first time they have been apart from you on a regular basis. Some children adapt to this very quickly, others take a little longer. Either situation is perfectly normal. We realise that you are entrusting us with the care of your child, and we place your child's safety, welfare and development at the top of our priorities. We offer a secure, happy and stimulating environment where independence, self-confidence, consideration for others and good manners are encouraged.

THE FIRST DAYS

Most children settle happily into pre-school within a week or two. However, if the staff or you feel that your child needs you with them for a little longer please do not worry about this - this is quite normal and we will discuss with you strategies to help them settle. The staff are all very experienced at settling upset children and will always ring you to let you know how your child is. Please talk to the staff if you have any concerns. If your child has a comforter or special toy, it would be a good idea to bring this in to help your child to settle. Although all staff look after and work with all the children, each child is allocated a 'keyworker' who will monitor your child's progress with us and will be your main point of contact. We will let you know once your child has settled in with us who your keyworker is.

THE MORNING ROUTINE

We open at 9am, we ask that parents wait with their child in the garden and then we will welcome children in one at a time, saying goodbye to parents at the door. We find this works very well for the children rather than all parents coming into the preschool room. When children arrive in the morning, they self-register by finding their name card and placing it in the correct letter pocket, they can then go and play. Each child has their own named coat peg and their own tray where they can put any belongings, drawings etc. Children are able to bring home their paintings, drawings, craft creations.

CLOTHING

Simple clothing which your child can fasten and unfasten themselves is the best idea. This will encourage them to gain independence when going to the toilet or going outside. Easily washable clothing which you don't mind getting messy is most suitable, as some of the activities we do will include paint, glue and other potentially messy materials. The children are provided with aprons but they don't cover everything! Please send your child with a bag or rucksack containing a named pair of wellies, a set of spare clothes in case of accidents (we do have a



box of spares for emergencies!). Please remember to add a warm hat and gloves in the winter and don't forget a sun hat and suncream (pre-applied before arrival) in the summer. If it is a very hot day, we can top up suncream if you request and leave a named bottle in their bag. In wet weather we may ask parents to send puddle suit with your child if you have one. We do have waterproof trousers but it can prove tricky to dry lots of them at once!

SNACK TIME

The children sit down for a mid morning snack at 10am. We provide water or milk if your child likes it. Please could your child bring a healthy snack to preschool in a named pot. Eg. A piece of fruit or raw vegetable sticks / a cracker etc. Please do not send sugary snacks as we try to encourage a love of healthy eating. Children have their snack together at tables where we sit with them and encourage good table manners and friendly chatter. PLEASE COULD YOUR CHILD BRING A NAMED WATER BOTTLE so that they can easily access water throughout the day. Please do not send squash or juice as we promote good oral health.

The children sit down for a drink and a little afternoon snack at 2pm – we provide the children with this snack which is either a buttered cracker/digestive biscuit/rice cake /breadsticks.

LUNCH TIME

We have lunch at 12pm. Children should bring in their own packed lunch and drink. We do have a healthy eating policy and request that parents consider this. Please do not send sweets, chocolate or pots of jelly. Small amounts of simple, healthy food are best in containers that are easy for little fingers to open! We also request that parents do not send in nuts or nut bars as we do sometimes have children with nut allergies and whilst we do not allow children to share their food, it can get passed about accidentally. Staff sit with children at lunch time and encourage good table manners, friendly

chatter and independence with opening things.

Safety note – please could any small cylindrical foods such grapes, cherry tomatoes, olives be cut in half length ways to avoid them being a choking hazard.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Parent partnerships are key for us to have a better understanding of your child's progress. Please fill in the 'All About Me' sheet with your child so that we can gain a picture of your child's interests and likes and dislikes. We use an online learning journal called 'Tapestry' so that we can share your child's learning with you electronically. You will receive detailed information about this and a permission slip before we activate an account for your child. Once your child has started pre-school, we welcome parents to share any relevant information, special moments or observations about your child when they are not at pre-school. Has your child achieved something at home recently? Have they dressed themselves



independently? Have they had their first swimming lesson? or Have they counted to 10? If you have anything exciting to tell us then please share it by uploading onto Tapestry or tell us in person. We always try to feed back a little at the end of each session and you will have opportunities throughout your child's time with us to have meetings to discuss your child's progress.

A Parent's guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 'What to Expect When'

Children develop more rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time. This online guide has been updated and is very good at helping you as a parent know what to expect during these vitally important years by focusing on the seven areas of learning and development which are covered in the EYFS. The purpose of this booklet is to help you find out more about how your child is learning and developing during their first five years, in relation to the EYFS. You will find this booklet on our website. Please don't hesitate to talk to us if you have any queries about your child's development.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please see our set of policies and procedures on our website, please take some time to have a look through these so that you are familiar with them.

CHATTER BOARD

We have a board at pre-school where we welcome children to bring in a couple of photos of their family or pets so that they can share them with us and their friends at preschool. Children can update their photos as they wish to. We have found that the children love looking at these and it encourages language development and social interaction as well as recognising our differences. It can also help some children to feel more secure when they can see photos of their family.



SHOW AND TELL

We welcome children to bring things in to share with us, something of interest or special to them that they would like to tell us about. Sometimes we might encourage children to bring things in which fit with our current topic. This improves children's confidence and communication skills. Please discourage your child from bringing in toys regularly to show as this can cause problems!

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

We promote positive behaviour through specific verbal praise and encouragement. We do include the use of reward stickers, when they have received 8 smiley face stickers they receive a 'Superstar' certificate. We have a behaviour management policy on our website and there is also information to promote positive behaviour at home on our parent information section.

NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNICATIONS

We send out regular emails and newsletters to keep you informed of things that we are doing or to let you know about useful information. We have lots of information on our website such as parents guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage, information on potty training etc. If you use facebook, we have a preschool group for parents, please request to join this group, we do put useful bits of information on this. Please note this is not the facebook page, it is a 'group' specifically for parents.

ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

If you wish to take your child out of preschool for a holiday, please inform us by email so that we are aware. You will still be charged for any unfunded hours as staffing is already in place for your child's space. If your child is poorly, please either email or phone us on the morning that your child is absent so we know that they are not coming in. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must stay at home for 48 hours after the last bout. If your child has a temperature or is 'full of a cold', we will ask that you keep them at home to rest. Children don't benefit from being at preschool if they are unwell. If it's just a 'sniffle', then they will probably be fine, your instinct will tell you! Children do very often get lots of colds when they start preschool as they are building up their immunity. During the COVID pandemic we will send out the latest government guidance to you when your child starts with us.

COMMITTEE AND HELPING OUT!

Our preschool is a registered charity and we are run by a voluntary committee of parents. We welcome and need new parents to get join the committee, get involved and help with both running the preschool and fundraising. The more people that help out, the more fun it is and is a great way to get to know other parents. More information on the committee and how you can get involved will be sent out.

We wish you and your child a very happy and memorable time with us
at Whimple Preschool!