



WHITELEY PRE-SCHOOL
Grow, Explore, Discover

Prospectus



☎ 01489 565717

✉ admin@whiteley-preschool.co.uk

🌐 www.whiteley-preschool.co.uk

Whiteley Pre-School, Whiteley Community Centre, Gull Coppice, Whiteley, Hampshire, PO15 7LA

Welcome

Welcome to Whiteley Preschool. We hope that this pack provides you with all the information that you will require to make the right decision for your child's exciting educational journey with us. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions about our setting. You can also visit our website www.whiteley-preschool.co.uk for further information.



About Whiteley Preschool

The Preschool was established over twenty years ago and has been supporting the Whiteley community ever since by providing affordable and flexible childcare. We are a charity and committee led setting registered to take up to 42 children aged from 2 years 6 months old per session. The Preschool operates from the main hall of Whiteley Community Centre and the children have continuous access to a large, secure garden throughout their day. Another room, Sweethills, is used by the children for creative experiences; this room also provides a space for small group activities.

We are open term-time only between the hours of 8.15am-3.00pm. We have a small team of dedicated, qualified Early Years Educators led by an experienced Early Years Childcare Manager. We foster a friendly, and where possible, flexible approach to meet the needs of our parents.

Our holistic approach provides the children with open ended, natural resources to facilitate their own imaginations. Both our educators and the preschool environment enable the



children to explore and follow their own interests. Our approach is to observe the children's physical, personal, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being, as well as the cognitive aspects of learning.

Our Preschool Aims

We recognise that children are best understood in the context of family, culture, community, and society. We respect the dignity, uniqueness, and identity of each individual child who attends our setting. Our Preschool aims to provide a high-quality early childhood programme providing a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment to ensure each child reaches their full potential. It is our aim to build the foundations that enable the children to transition to school successfully. Building on children's prior and current experiences we will help them to feel secure and confident both at preschool and in the years to come. Throughout our daily practice we provide the building blocks and skills that enable the children to consider their own feelings and of others around them.

Our ethos of *Grow, Explore, Discover* means

Grow: We want to inspire children to embrace their individuality and grow into well-rounded, confident individuals who are ready to embrace the transition to year R.

Explore: Children are supported to explore their feelings and emotions, thoughts, imagination, and creativity by our inspired Educators.

Discover: We teach children how to be critical thinkers and active learners through an enabling environment. Time to explore and discover friendships, independence and a love for learning is promoted by our core values and our daily routines.



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Management & Administration

Whiteley Preschool is run by an elected committee, which ensures that the major decision-making is in the hands of the parents whose children attend the preschool. The committee is responsible for reviewing both policy and practice, and for the employment of members of staff. Our Annual General Meeting, at which the committee for the following year is elected, is usually held in October. Our membership with the Early Years Alliance ensures that we are constantly in touch with new practices in the field of child education and care. In addition, our staff are encouraged to attend training courses to ensure their on-going professional development. If you are interested in joining the Whiteley Preschool committee, please contact us as we actively encourage parent participation and partnership.



The Curriculum

At Whiteley Preschool we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. The EYFS sets the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure children make good progress in their learning and development and are kept healthy and safe.

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances." (EYFS).

The seven areas of learning and development are incorporated into our daily ethos. For more information on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and how we track and monitor your child's development please speak to our Childcare Manager.



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Key Person

At Whiteley Preschool each child's uniqueness and individual way of exploring and learning is celebrated. We aim to make a difference by supporting children according to their individual strengths and interests and we do this through a carefully planned curriculum. As part of this we adopt a key person approach. Your child will be allocated a member of the team who will become their Key Person. Your child's Key Person will ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. We will seek to engage with you as parents to help guide your child's development at home. This is achieved through termly meetings that you can attend to discuss your child's progress here at Preschool. Parent partnership plays a vital role within our ethos and we fully encourage and support your involvement, not just during the more formal termly meetings.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We are committed to the inclusion of all children and believe that each child has the right to be cared for and educated to develop to their full potential. This is achieved through the sharing of opportunities and experiences to allow the children to develop and learn from their peers. Children, regardless of ability, will be encouraged to progress at their own level of development. Our staff are experienced in working in close liaison with professionals across a range of special/additional needs and we operate in accordance with the government's Code of Practice on special educational needs. If you would like to discuss your child's needs, please speak with our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Throughout the day children may be invited to join small group activities which promote language development, confidence, or other areas of learning. Children that have been identified that require extra support may also be invited to these groups.



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Food & Drink

We provide the children with a healthy snack each morning from 9.15am. During this time, the children are encouraged to participate in the preparation of their snack by chopping, cutting, or spreading their own portions. This also provides ideal opportunities for us to promote British Values and language and communication throughout the setting.

If your child attends an all-day (9am to 3pm) or an afternoon session (12noon to 3pm) they will need to bring a packed lunch. We would recommend that your child's pack lunch contains:

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- A sandwich, roll, wrap, rice salad and pasta salad etc
- Raw vegetables/fruit
- Yoghurt/healthy snack

Please ensure you advise us of any dietary requirements your child may have; we operate a **NO NUTS** policy. In-keeping with our healthy eating policy, we also discourage fizzy drinks, fruit shoots and sweets being brought into preschool (including birthday celebrations).



Rhythm of the day

Timelines are used to help all children visualise the rhythm of their day. Below is an example of a standard day.

8:15am	8:45am	Breakfast Club children arrive.
8:45	9am	Morning & all-day children arrive (staggered)
9am	11:40	Child-initiated play and adult lead activities. During the morning SEN groups will take place. Snack bar is available from 9:15 - 10 am.
11:35 am	11:40 noon	Tidy up, get ready for lunch.
11:40	12 noon	Group Time
12 noon		Home time for AM children, arrival of PM children & Lunch
12:30pm	2:30pm	Child initiated play and adult lead activities; SEN groups will take place.
2:30pm	2:35pm	Tidy up & collect things for home time.
2:35pm	2:45pm	Group time get ready to go home.
2:45pm	3:00 pm	Home time (staggered).

* Currently due to COVID-19 we are operating a slightly different routine. Our doors will open for children to arrive from 8:45 - 9 am and at the end of the day a staggered collection from 2:45- 3 pm will be in place. Therefore, the children's day will begin to come to an end at the earlier time of 2:30 pm.

During the day there is a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed play. An example of the adult-directed times is group time where children come together in their key groups and talk about how they are feeling and play some letters & sounds games. Children are provided with a stimulating environment where provocations will ignite their imaginations.



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Fees

Our fees are £5 an hour (£15 per 3-hour session, £30 per day) and we require children to attend a minimum of two sessions per week.

Every child in Hampshire is eligible for a nursery education grant. This will be paid from the term **after** which your child turns 3 years of age. There are three terms:

- 1 September - 31 December
- 1 January - 31 March
- 1 April - 31 August

Children who are eligible to claim for the grant will be entitled to funding of up to 15 hours a week. Parents who both work over 16 hours per week and earn under £100,000 per annum each, will be entitled to claim 30 hours per week funding. You are not obliged to claim the full 30 hours but can claim up to that amount. If your child attends another setting you may need to pay top up fees. You can split your funding between multiple settings and pay for the hours not covered by your funding. Some families are eligible to claim 2-year-old funding, if you think you may be eligible please see the following website for more information.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/childcare/payingforchildcare/freechildcare/eyefunding>

We hope that you found this prospectus informative, if you require any further information please contact us, we will be delighted to help or to show you around our Preschool.



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