

Introduction

We are proud of the warm & caring environment that we provide for our children. Our dedicated & professional team provide a wide range of stimulating learning opportunities in a safe & inviting environment; ensuring equal opportunities for all.

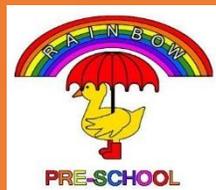
We provide care & education for young children between the ages of 2 & 5 years. Our pre-school is based on the Wordsworth Primary School site on Victor Street, in close proximity to Sainsbury's, Shirley High Street & St James Park.

Aims & Objectives

- Provide a welcoming & caring environment for children & parents/carers
- Develop high standards of teaching & learning through a rich, varied & stimulating environment, enabling children to access a broad & multi-cultural education.
- Provide physical play opportunities for children to reach their full potential & promote healthy lifestyles.
- Encourage & develop children's self-esteem, confidence & independence, promoting lively, enquiring minds; equipping children with the necessary skills to enable them to move on to reception class as confident & motivated individuals.
- Provide equal opportunities for every child regardless of race, gender or culture in order for each child to fulfil their potential.
- Provide appropriate levels of support, encouragement & challenge for all children to allow them to make the best possible progress.
- Fulfil the legal requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (2021).

RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2021-22

We look forward to working together in partnership & we hope that you & your child will be happy joining Rainbow Pre-school.



We are committed to guiding & encouraging your child in achieving his/her full potential. We do this by providing a stimulating, secure, warm & caring atmosphere within which your child will learn & grow in confidence. We are able to offer an organised & well-planned indoor & outdoor environment that provides maximum opportunity for interactive learning through play, whatever the weather.



“Very professional & caring service”
– parent comment



What We Offer

We believe that children grow & develop best when they are having fun, increasing their confidence & excitement about the world around them. Through play, children enjoy a high quality of care, building on prior learning & nurturing their social, emotional & physical wellbeing. You are your child's first educator & we encourage the closest communication between home & pre-school. This partnership is vital in order to ensure the best outcomes for your child. The needs of the child will always be paramount.

Our sessions

Morning Club: 8:30am – 8:55am

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Lunch Club: 11:55am – 12:30pm

Afternoon Session: 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Afternoon Club: 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Pre-school Day: 8:55am – 3:30pm

Full Day Care: 8:30am – 4:00pm

We operate from Monday – Friday, **term time only**

The Day

Start of the session: Children are guided in to their playroom by a familiar practitioner. We advise short, positive goodbyes & practitioners will be on hand to encourage your child into the playroom.

Lunch club: children staying all day bring a healthy packed lunch & will eat in small groups.

Snacks: a sit-down snack, mid-morning & mid-afternoon is provided, which includes fruit/vegetable & a form of carbohydrate e.g. crackers, breadsticks, dry cereal. Children can drink milk at snack & fresh water is accessible throughout the day.

Collecting your child: children may only be collected from the pre-school by a named adult (16 or above) – permission for this must be given prior to collection by the parent/carer. Therefore, if someone unknown to the pre-school staff is picking your child up, you will need to let them know in advance.

Funding

15 hours funding is allocated to eligible two year olds the term after their 2nd birthday & to all three & four year olds the term after their 3rd birthday. We must have any valid codes, paperwork & must have seen their birth certificate before we are able to claim for your child.

Some 3 & 4 year olds are eligible for the 30 hours funding from the term after their 3rd birthday. The parent is responsible for obtaining & providing the pre-school with a valid code for checking. Visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

In all cases allocation of funded hours will be at management discretion, where financially viable for the business & in the best interests of the child.

Settling In

To help your child feel happy & safe in the pre-school environment, we will arrange a visit for you and your child, prior to your child starting.

A pre-booked home visit is normally encouraged where two practitioners will visit you & your child at home prior to starting pre-school. This offers the opportunity for you to meet & provide practitioners with information about your child in your own familiar environment. The visit enables us to gain valuable insight to your child & allows your child to become familiar with our staff. The home visit is also an opportunity for you to discuss any concerns that you may have & build confidence around making the transition between home & pre-school. **During Covid-19 home visits are suspended but the same information can be discussed during the initial visit and by telephone.**

We have a flexible approach regarding admission, based on the individual needs of the child, building up the length of attendance gradually. We have many years of experience in settling children at pre-school & we will all be doing everything possible to help your child settle. Further details of our procedures can be found in our Admissions Policy & Settling In Policy.

Clothing

We love messy play & provide aprons for children to use however we suggest that your child does not wear their best clothes to pre-school & ask that you provide a spare set of clothes for your child. Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather e.g. wellies, hat, coat with hood or sun hat & sun cream. Please ensure all spare clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Staff

All of our staff are qualified or are working towards a relevant Early Years qualification, & are experienced in all aspects of childcare; having been recruited on the basis of their professional qualifications & personal qualities. All staff have had Disclosure & Barring Service checks & complete a range of training, on an on-going basis including Food Hygiene, Safeguarding, Paediatric First Aid & Prevent Duty.

All staff share in the belief that each child is a totally unique & special individual. Our aim is to nurture this individuality.

Equality & Diversity

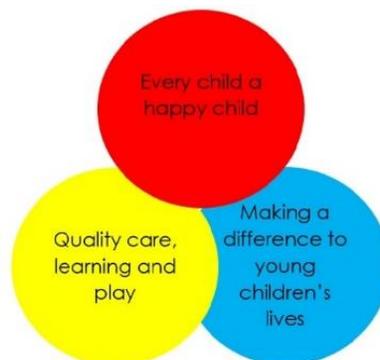
All families are welcomed & valued & staff are aware of & respect differences in upbringing, religion & language. Racism is not tolerated in any form.

Positive images of people, male/female, from a range of ethnic & cultural groups, with/without disabilities are promoted throughout. Resources & activities are appropriate & adapted for the ages & stages of the individual child.

Children with English as an additional language will be provided with practical & relevant experiences to give meaningful opportunities for talking & interacting with others.

Bilingual support & a translation service can be accessed upon request.

Rainbow Spirit



Our Curriculum

We base our curriculum on three 20th Century psychologists who are still inspirational theorists today. Together their ideas cement our approach; creating the best environment within which children learn through play, enabling children to fulfil their full potential.

Abraham Maslow, believed in providing the basics in life; food, water, warmth & shelter, then building on the basics with a safe & secure environment, offering a secure key person who understands the child & finally promoting the child's self-esteem.

Jean Piaget, placed great emphasis on the child as an individual, learning through first hand experiences through exploration & investigation. Our playrooms are set up to encourage children to be independent learners, who are able to self-select activities & resources.

Lev Vygotsky, identified that children naturally learn from interacting & watching more able children. This supports our practice for mixing children's age groups, rather than segregating them.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Government have a framework to support children in their earliest years; this is known as 'The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage' (EYFS). This framework aims to provide parents/carers with the assurance that their child is in a secure, safe environment & has a provision of purposeful play, in order to make the most of their abilities.

Within the EYFS guidance document, children's learning & development is presented in seven areas; these seven areas are divided into Prime Areas & Specific Areas.

In order for children to develop holistically the foundations of learning need to be in place, these foundations form the Prime Areas. The Specific Areas become a focus once the Prime Areas are developed.

Building on these theorists findings we offer a curriculum that balances child led activities with adult directed activities, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, develop & thrive.

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development;
Physical Development; Communication &
Language;

Specific Areas

Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World;
Expressive Arts & Design;

At Rainbow Pre-school we introduce these areas of development through a balance of adult-led & child initiated play activities that are individual & suitable for young children. These activities take into account the ages & stages of all children & cover all learning styles.

Working Together For Your Child

Rainbow Pre-school operates an open communication system in cooperation with parents/carers. Our partnership with you, will be used as a foundation on which we will continue to build on. Your child's existing skills & interests will provide a valuable basis for future learning.

We provide a regular newsletter, hold parents consultations, display information on our parent/carers notice board & share a variety of activity ideas for you to try out at home. We have a wealth of tools & advice to support you on subjects such as behaviour, healthy recipes, stages of play & information on helping your child to learn & develop through play based activities

There are many ways in which you can take part in pre-school such as:

- exchanging knowledge about your child's needs, interests & progress with staff;
- getting involved in organised events such as outings, fundraisers & stay & play days;
- coming in to pre-school as a volunteer or reading a story to the group; &
- supporting learning at home.

Healthy & Happy Lifestyle

The first five years of a child's life can greatly impress on future life choices & adult life. Children's wellbeing is at the core of what we do. We have achieved the Healthy Early Years – Healthy Eating Bronze Award & incorporate this throughout our provision. Children take part in a wide range of physical activities, both inside & outside. Healthy eating is encouraged & learnt about during snack, lunch & play.

The sharing of snack time plays an important part in the social life of the pre-school & to help adopt a 'home' atmosphere, staff & children enjoy their snack together. The children are encouraged at all times with their independence & personal hygiene; for example: washing hands before eating, not touching each other's food.

We acknowledge & respect dietary requirements. Sometimes we have picnics or special events during which we may provide food different from children's usual snack. On such occasions a list of ingredients will be made available to parents/carers.

Our aim is to develop a setting where your child can develop self-discipline & self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect & encouragement, by positively promoting good behaviour & valuing co-operation & a caring attitude.

“The play environment is very conducive for learning and bringing out the best in every child” – parent comment



Recording Progress

Each child's development is unique & special, which is why your child will be provided with an individual record of their development, recorded in the form of a learning Journal. We use Tapestry as an online recording system to share with you your child's achievements & progress at pre-school; through written observations, photos & videos. Your own home observations & views are greatly valued & necessary to ensure that each child's learning & development is shared in a holistic way. Shared record keeping enables practitioners & parents to celebrate together & plan & resource children's next steps.

A member of staff will be responsible for recording your child's achievements; this is known as a 'key person system'. Your child's key person will discuss your child's learning & development with you on a regular basis.

Special Educational Needs

The pre-school is committed to the inclusion of children with additional needs & works to the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice. We are fortunate in having access which makes our premises accessible. We work in liaison with extended services, including Therapists, Health Visitors, Educational Psychologists, Social Workers, Pediatricians & Portage to meet individual children's specific needs. Further details of our SEND provision can be found in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy.

Please Note

During a pandemic Rainbow Pre-school might not look the same as usual. There may be changes to sessions, routes of entry/exit & restrictions placed on the range of resources available or what can be brought in from home (spare clothes, bottles etc.)

During a pandemic multiple policies & procedures may be changed at short notice.

Safety

All of our equipment conforms to relevant safety regulations, as does our premises. We have a fully comprehensive insurance cover, which includes public liability. All necessary checks are carried out with Ofsted & the Fire Brigade. We carry out fire drills & lock down drills & a no smoking policy is in place within the school grounds.

"I like playing with all of my friends"
– child comment



"Our kids wouldn't have got to where they are through the last year and a half without all of you wonderful people"
– parent comment

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Our safeguarding procedures are rigorous & all visitors are made aware of them via our Safeguarding Information leaflet. The pre-school is a secured area accessed by an intercom system & playrooms are secured by a door chain. Visitors are supervised at all times.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Claire Stemp.

Our Deputy Safeguarding Officers are: Corinne Finlay, Rachael Clouder and Sylwia Szmit,

We intend to create an environment in which children know that it is ok to say 'no', & in which they are safe from any form of abuse. Any suspicion of abuse will be promptly & appropriately responded to. Our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, along with a variety of other information & policies, can be found on our website and is available by request from the office.

For more information:

Additional information can be found on our website & in our policies & procedures. All of our policies are working documents, which are regularly reviewed & updated. Copies are available upon request.

Please call 02380 701601

Email
claire.stemp@rainbowpreschoolshirley.co.uk

or visit
www.rainbowpreschoolshirley.co.uk

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