

EASINGTON PLAYGROUP

Address

% Harriers Ground County Primary
Harriers View, Bloxham Road
Banbury, Oxfordshire
OX16 9JW

aims to:

- provide high quality care and education for children primarily below statutory school age;
- work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop;
- add to the life and well-being of its local community; and
- offer children and their parents a service which promotes equality and values diversity.

As a member of Easington Playgroup, your child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment;
- is given generous care and attention, because of our high ratio of adults to children;
- has the chance to join with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together;
- is helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do;
- has a personal key person who makes sure your child makes satisfying progress;
- is in a playgroup which sees you as a partner in helping your child to learn and develop; and
- is in a playgroup in which parents help to shape the service it offers.

The service offered by Easington Playgroup

The playgroup is open 38 weeks each year.

We are closed as and when Harriers Ground County Primary School is closed

We are open 5 mornings each week between 8:50 and 11:20 And

2 afternoons each week between 12:30 and 3:00pm

We offer the following types of care between the following times: Sessional

We provide care and education for young children between the ages of 2½ and 5yrs

The curriculum provided by Easington Playgroup

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born.

The care and education offered by Easington Playgroup helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are right for their age and stage of development.

For children between the ages of 3 and 5 years, the playgroup provides a curriculum for the foundation stage of education. This curriculum is set out in a document, published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the Department for Education and Skills, and called Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage.

Playgroup follows this guidance..

The guidance divides children's learning and development into six areas:

- personal, social and emotional development;
- communication, language and literacy development;
- mathematical development;
- knowledge and understanding of the world;

- physical development; and
- creative development.

For each area, the guidance sets out early learning goals. These goals state what it is expected that children will know and be able to do by the end of the reception year of their education.

For each early learning goal, the guidance sets out stepping stones, which describe the stages through which children are likely to pass as they move to achievement of the goal. Easington Playgroup uses the early learning goals and their stepping stones to help us to trace each child's progress and to enable us to provide the right activities to help all of the children move towards achievement of the early learning goals.

Personal, social and emotional development

This area of children's development covers:

- having a positive approach to learning and finding out about the world around them;
- having confidence in themselves and their ability to do things, and valuing their own achievements;
- being able to get on, work and make friendships with other people, both children and adults;
- becoming aware of - and being able to keep to - the rules which we all need to help us to look after ourselves, other people and our environment;
- being able to dress and undress themselves, and look after their personal hygiene needs; and
- being able to expect to have their ways of doing things respected and to respect other people's ways of doing things.

Communication language and literacy:

This area of children's development covers:

- being able to use conversation with one other person, in small groups and in large groups to talk with and listen to others;
- adding to their vocabulary by learning the meaning of - and being able to use - new words;
- being able to use words to describe their experiences;
- getting to know the sounds and letters which make up the words we use;
- listening to - and talking about - stories;
- knowing how to handle books and that they can be a source of stories and information;
- knowing the purposes for which we use writing; and
- making their own attempts at writing.

Mathematical development

This area of children's development covers:

- building up ideas about how many, how much, how far and how big;
- building up ideas about patterns, the shape of objects and parts of objects, and the amount of space taken up by objects;
- starting to understand that numbers help us to answer questions about how many, how much, how far and how big;
- building up ideas about how to use counting to find out how many; and
- being introduced to finding the result of adding more or taking away from the amount we already have.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

This area of children's development covers:

- finding out about the natural world and how it works;
- finding out about the made world and how it works;
- learning how to choose - and use - the right tool for a task;
- learning about computers, how to use them and what they can help us to do;
- starting to put together ideas about past and present and the links between them;
- beginning to learn about their locality and its special features; and
- learning about their own and other cultures.

Physical development

This area of children's development covers:

- gaining control over the large movements which we can make with our arms, legs and bodies, so that they can run, jump, hop, skip, roll, climb, balance and lift;
- gaining control over the small movements we can make with our arms, wrists and hands, so that they can pick up and use objects, tools and materials; and
- learning about the importance of - and how to look after - their bodies.

Creative development

This area of children's development covers:

- using paint, materials, music, dance, words, stories and role-play to express their ideas and feelings; and
- becoming interested in the way that paint, materials, music, dance, words, stories and role-play can be used to express ideas and feelings.

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children think.

Easington Playgroup uses the early learning goals and their stepping stones to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. In some of these activities children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity. In all activities information from the early learning goals and stepping stones has been used to decide what equipment to provide and how to provide it.

Working together for your children

Playgroup has a high ratio of adults to children in the setting. This helps us to:

- give time and attention to each child;
- talk with the children about their interests and activities;
- help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide; and
- allow the children to explore and be adventurous in safety.

The staff who work at Easington Playgroup are:

Mrs. Heidi Oliver
Mrs. Margaret Burr
Ms. Tracey Warren

How parents take part in the Playgroup

As a member of the Playgroup Learning Alliance, Easington Playgroup recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. All of the staff see themselves as co-workers with you in providing care and education for your child. There are many ways in which parents take part in making the playgroup a welcoming and stimulating place for children and parents, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests and progress with the staff;
- helping at sessions of the playgroup;
- sharing their own special interests with the children;
- helping to provide, make and look after the equipment and materials used in the children's play activities;
- being part of the management of the playgroup;
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by the playgroup;
- joining in community activities in which the playgroup takes part; and
- building friendships with other parents in the playgroup.

The parents' rota

The playgroup has a dated rota which you can sign if you would like to help at a particular session or sessions of the playgroup. Helping at the session enables you to see what the day-to-day life of the playgroup is like and to join in helping the children to get the best out of their activities.

Joining in

Joining the rota is not the only means of taking part in the life of the playgroup. You can offer to take part in a session by sharing your own interests and skills with the children. Parents for example, have visited the playgroup to: show animals like chickens or Guinea Pigs to the children; show pictures of the local carnival held in their childhood; and show the children their collection of shells.

Do feel free to arrange to drop into the playgroup, if you would like to see it at work or to speak with the staff.

Key persons

The playgroup has a key person system. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom she/he is particularly responsible. Your child's key person will be the person who works with you to make sure that what the playgroup provides is right for your child's particular needs and interests. When your child first starts at the playgroup, she/he will help your child to settle and throughout your child's time at the playgroup, she/he will help your child to benefit from the playgroup's activities.

Records of achievement

The playgroup keeps a record of achievement for each child. Staff and parents working together on their children's records of achievement is one of the ways in which Playgroup and parents work in partnership. Your child's record of achievement

helps us to celebrate together her/his achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for her/his well-being and to make progress. Your child's key person will work with you to keep this record. To do this you and she/he will collect information about your child's needs, activities, interests and achievements. This information will enable the key person to identify your child's stage of progress. You and the key person will then decide on how to help your child to move on to the next stage,

Learning opportunities for adults

As well as gaining qualifications in early years care and education, the playgroup staff take part in further training to help them to keep up-to-date with thinking about early years care and education.

The playgroup also keeps itself up-to-date with best practice in early years care and education through the Pre-School Learning Alliance's magazine Under Five and publications produced by the Pre-School Learning Alliance. The current copy of Under Five is available for you to read.

The playgroup's timetable and routines

Easington Playgroup believes that care and education are equally important in the experience which we offer children. The routines and activities that make up the playgroup's session/day are provided in ways that:

- help each child to feel that she/he is a valued member of the playgroup;
- ensure the safety of each child;
- help children to gain from the social experience of being part of a group; and
- provide children with opportunities to learn and help them to value learning.

The session*

The playgroup organises its sessions so that the children can choose from - and work at - a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity - and are encouraged - to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided in the indoor playroom.

Snacks and meals

The playgroup makes snacks a social time at which children and adults eat together. We plan the menus for snacks so that they provide the children with healthy and nutritious food. Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met.

Policies

The playgroup's policies help us to make sure that the service provided by the playgroup is a high quality one and that being a member of the playgroup is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his parents.

The staff and parents of the playgroup work together to adopt the policies and they all have the opportunity to take part in the annual review of the policies. This review

helps us to make sure that the policies are enabling the playgroup to provide a quality service for its members and the local community.

Special needs

As part of the playgroup's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special needs which a child may have. The playgroup works to the requirements of the 1993 Education Act and The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2000). The playgroup's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator is Margaret Burr

The management of Playgroup

A parent management committee - whose members are elected by the parents of the children who attend the playgroup - manages the playgroup. The elections take place at the playgroup's Annual General Meeting which is held in each year. The committee is responsible for:

- managing the playgroup's finances;
- employing and managing the staff;
- making sure that the playgroup has - and works to - policies which help it to provide a high quality service; and
- making sure that the playgroup works in partnership with the children's parents.

The Annual General Meeting is open to the parents of all of the children who attend the playgroup. It is their forum for looking back over the previous year's activities and shaping the coming year's activities.

Fees

The fees are payable half-termly or termly in advance. Fees must still be paid if children are absent without notice for a short period of time. If your child has to be absent over a long period of time, talk to Margaret Burr, the Registration Secretary. For your child to keep her/his place at the playgroup, you must pay the fees or we must receive nursery education funding for your child.

Starting at Easington Playgroup

The first days

We want your child to feel happy and safe at the playgroup. To make sure that this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into the playgroup. The playgroup has a policy about helping children to settle into the playgroup: a copy is enclosed in this prospectus.

Clothing

The Playgroup has a uniform – Red T-Shirts/Sweat Shirt with the Playgroup Logo which should be purchased from a member of staff.

The playgroup provides protective clothing for the children when they play with messy activities.

The playgroup encourages children to gain the skills which help them to be independent and look after themselves. These include taking themselves to the toilet and taking off - and putting on - outdoor clothes. Clothing which is easy for them to manage will help them to do this.

Easington Playgroup hopes that you and your child enjoy being members of the playgroup and that you both find taking part in our activities interesting and

stimulating. The staff are always ready and willing to talk with you about your ideas, views or questions.