



Stone with Woodford Playgroup



Stone & District Village Hall
Stone
Berkeley
Gloucestershire
GL13 9LE

Telephone Number: 07544 733799

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Registered Charity: 1055512



Who's Who at Playgroup

Playgroup Committee

Officers

Chair

Roz Coombe

Treasurer

Helen Hughes

Secretary

Gareth Langdon



Playgroup Staff

Play Leader

Laura Plimbley

Deputy Play Leader

Dawn Bramley

Play Worker

Rachel Gibbons

Administrator

Dawn Bramley

Introduction to Stone with Woodford Playgroup

We are a not-for-profit organisation led by a management committee made up of parent/carer volunteers. We serve the local community and surrounding areas and have built strong links with Stone with Woodford Primary School. We are a member of PATA which supports us in delivering high quality childcare, education and play.

We treat all our children as individuals, respecting their needs and wishes as well as those of their parents and carers. We encourage each child to participate and achieve to their own potential. We include multicultural festivals and beliefs in our planning.

By ensuring a high ratio of staff to children, and operating a 'key carer' scheme, we are able to give plenty of individual attention to each child.

We Aim to:

- Provide high quality care and education for children between the ages of 2 and 5 in a happy, safe and secure environment;
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to help children learn and develop;
- Allow children to enjoy being part of a community group in which each individual is valued;
- Offer a service that promotes equality and values diversity;
- Help all our children reach their own potential in all areas of development and learning, through fostering positive relationships;
- Encourage children to learn through play.

Special Educational Needs

We have a SEND Policy and a designated SEND Co-ordinator. With discussion between parents/carers and the key carer any child with SEND will be given an individual care plan which will be reviewed on a regular basis with input from other agencies if required.

Term Dates

We open during school term times, and aim to match the term dates of other Gloucestershire schools. However, the inset dates may differ.

Dates are confirmed each term.

Hours

Our current hours will be as follows:

- Monday: 9.00am to 2.30pm
- Tuesday: 9.00am to 2.30pm
- Wednesday: 9.00am to 2.30pm
- Friday: 9.00am to 2.30pm
(Pre-School Children Only)

Children are welcome to stay for the full session, to leave before lunch at 12.00pm or after lunch at 1.00pm. Those staying for lunch bring in a packed lunch.

Children also get to choose from milk, water, fruit, cheese and breadsticks each day at snack time.



Transition to Primary School

We are fortunate to have close links with our local primary school and we have up to 12 visitor sessions throughout the pre-school year (Friday Session).

If a child is not going to our local school a personal transition plan will be arranged with the relevant school.



What Happens in a Session?

We offer a broad range of activities from crafts to cooking, water play and village walks, games and puzzles, stories and singing. We offer a safe but stimulating outdoor area to enjoy whatever the weather. We encourage children to make healthy choices, to help achieve this, children are given healthy snacks and we do lots of movement and dance. A session trail book full of photos with a brief summary is on display in the setting and on the website so that parents/carers can share in our experiences.

Settling In

Each child is treated as an individual so their needs will be discussed with the parent/carer and a personal plan agreed to suit the child, if needed.

Key Carer System

Each child has a key carer who will work with you to help build and develop your child's learning journey during their time at Playgroup. The key carer also helps your child settle in and to get the most out of the activities on offer.

Clothing

Children are provided with aprons for 'messy play' but it is advisable that old clothes are worn and a change of clothes is very useful especially if the children get very messy or wet.

Coats and wellies are always handy and sun hats when it's really sunny. We have a Sun Policy and children are required to wear hats and sunscreen, both can be provided at the setting if necessary.



Useful Information

All about the Early Years Foundation Stage:

www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage

Our latest OFSTED report:

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>



Our Policies & Procedures

Copies of Playgroup's policies and procedures are kept at Playgroup. These are reviewed regularly to ensure we provide a high-quality service.

Development and Learning: Government Requirements

Our provision reflects the four key themes of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers; and
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

As part of its goal to ensure children's 'school readiness' the EYFS framework gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills to provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. Specific learning and development requirements cover the areas of learning, early learning goals and assessment arrangements.

Of the seven identified areas of learning and development, the three prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Support is also given in literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

Progress checks have been introduced for children aged between two and three; parents will be given a short summary of their child's development in the prime areas. This allows staff to help identify areas in which children are stronger or may need more support. Staff will discuss with parents/carers how this summary of development can be used to support learning at home.



What does the Committee do?

The committee is responsible for:

- managing the Preschool's finances
- employing and managing the staff
- making sure the Preschool has, & works to, policies that help it to provide a high quality service
- making sure the Preschool works in partnership with the children's parents/carers.



Our Approach to Learning, Development & Assessment

Learning Through Play

Using the framework outlined above, we plan and offer children a wide range of stimulating, engaging and above all, fun activities that allow them to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. Play activities may be chosen and led by the children themselves, or an adult might guide them through the activity.

Assessment

We are always observing the children to assess how they are learning and developing. We use this information, along with the expected development goals for specific age ranges so that we can work together, with parents, to help support the individual child's development.

How Parents & Carers Take Part in Playgroup

As a community based and voluntarily managed setting, we rely on the goodwill of parents and carers, and their involvement, to keep Playgroup running.

Our Commitment to Parents

- We will value and respect you as the most important educators of your children
- We will keep you informed about what is happening at Playgroup
- We will consult you about any changes
- We will welcome your participation and involvement

How Parents Can Help Playgroup

- Share knowledge about your children's needs, activities, interests and progress with staff
- Help at Playgroup sessions, to see the children play and to share any special skills or interests
- Support Playgroup with fundraising

Join the committee to help manage Playgroup – all parents are welcome to come to the AGM.

Fees (January 2024)

We accept children from two years of age.

Fees are currently:

- **£6.25 per hour for two year olds**
- **£5.25 per hour for three year olds.**

From the term after their third birthday, all children are eligible for up to 15 hours per week of childcare funded by the Nursery Education Grant. Working parent funding of 15 or 30 hours, dependant of child's age, is available for eligible working parents.

There is some funding available for two year-olds, if parents claim certain benefits, please ask for details. It is the parent's responsibility to apply for this working parent or specific 2 year old funding.

We require 4 weeks' notice of any reduction in sessions and please be aware no refunds can be given for absence or holidays.



Complaints

We hope that you and your child will be happy with Stone Playgroup. Should you have any concerns or suggestions, any of the staff will be happy to discuss them with you. You are always free to contact either the Play Leader or Committee Chair.

If you do not feel satisfied with the outcome after this, please contact the OFSTED Complaints

Helpline on: 0300 123 4666 or at

Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD



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