



Sheriff Hutton Preschool Playgroup Local Offer

Introduction: At Sheriff Hutton Preschool we view every child as an individual with individual interests, personalities, needs and developmental stages. This view is fundamental to our ethos and underpins all our procedures and practices. We work very hard to ensure that each child's very personal needs are fully recognised and catered for.

Partnership with parents: At Sheriff Hutton Preschool we fully acknowledge that a child's parents/ carers know their child best and are their primary educators. We want to work in partnership to provide the best possible care and educational environment for their child. We do this by

- *Genuinely valuing parent's opinions.*
- *Asking parents all about their child before they start with us, including family background, interests, likes and dislikes. We always ensure that a child's key worker has time to sit down and talk with the parent during a child's settling in session.*
- *Holding a formal settling in review a few weeks after the child starts with us, to discuss how they are settling and what we have observed about the development and interests of their child. We invite parents to contribute to this, to supplement our observations and to "fill in the gaps"*
- *Involving parents fully in 2 year old reviews.*
- *Regularly canvassing parents' opinions about their child's interests, ideas to include in our planning, possible trips etc.*
- *Involving parents on a parent rota, so that all parents know what their child does at playgroup and can see how they play and learn with us.*
- *Encouraging parents to access their child's records and to comment on these.*
- *Always being available for face to face discussion at the start and end of sessions.*
- *Encouraging parents to join the committee and become a key part in running playgroup.*
- *Keeping parents fully informed about curriculum content, trips, events etc through a half termly newsletter, email updates and via the website.*
- *Encouraging parents to support learning at playgroup through home learning leaflets, storybooks and other resources.*

The unique child: At Sheriff Hutton Preschool we view each child as unique. We cater for their individual needs by

- *Allowing parents to stay for as many settling in sessions (free of charge) as that child needs in order to feel comfortable.*
- *Offering specially tailored session times out of the ordinary, should a child need adapted times.*
- *Closely observing children and planning next steps to ensure that each child is challenged in a way that is appropriate to their interests and stages of development.*
- *Assigning each child a key worker who will be the child's first "special person" at playgroup.*
- *Ensuring that the key worker is generally responsible for personal care.*
- *Ensuring that children are given extra support **when they need it**. Some children may need extra support just for short periods of time and some might need extra support throughout their whole time at playgroup. Parents are always involved in discussions relating to their child and their opinions are actively sought and valued.*

The enabling environment: At Sheriff Hutton Preschool we aim to ensure that each child can access a stimulating and varied curriculum. This is achieved by

- *Ensuring that we have a well laid out and exciting core provision.*
- *Making all resources readily accessible to all children and ensuring that children are confident to access all resources independently.*
- *Offering subsidised places in cases of genuine financial hardship.*
- *Employing empathetic staff who are all highly skilled at interacting with children to ensure high quality conversations are promoted.*

- *Attempting to be fully inclusive. Our ethos is that all children (of the correct age) are welcome and we will do our best to meet their needs. We would endeavour to ensure that any child accessing our setting was included fully in every aspect of the life of playgroup.*

Unfortunately our premises are not yet fully wheelchair accessible but we are trying to raise funds to rectify this. The building does have a disabled toilet and would be appropriate for children and adults with reduced mobility as it is accessed by three shallow steps with a hand rail.

Positive relationships: We believe that positive relationships are at the heart of children achieving their full potential. At Sheriff Hutton Preschool

- *All children are assigned a key worker who will work closely with that family as well as that individual child.*
- *Staff are empathetic and emotionally available to support children when they need this.*
- *Staff take time to get to know their key children. This means that activities planned for children are interesting to them and pitched at the right level to extend their skills and understanding.*
- *Parent's opinions are genuinely valued meaning that a very strong parent – setting partnership exists.*
- *We work in partnership with the local primary school to arrange a series of visits of increasing length and independence. Children and parents are well supported through the whole transition process. Records are passed on to the primary school and discussed with the teacher to ensure continuity of experience.*
- *With parental permission we will share information with other settings that your child attends.*

Children needing extra support: If you feel your child needs extra support during their time at playgroup we will do our best to meet their individual needs. If we identify an area of extra need we will talk to you about this and work out a strategy to ensure that we are providing the very best environment for your child. Some of the procedures and people we have to help are

- *A dedicated, caring and kind staff.*
- *A named Special Needs Coordinator, who has received training from NYCC and who will use her experience to plan a carefully tailored care/ education package for your child should we be unable to fully meet their needs through our usual observation-planning-assessment cycle.*
- *All other staff members who have years of experience working with children with a variety of individual special needs.*
- *Staff who are willing and able to access help from outside agencies including health visitors, educational psychologists, children's centres and NYCC special advisors.*
- *Staff who regularly observe children and make judgements on their development and progress. If we see any signs that cause us concern we will discuss this within the staff team and develop a strategy to address the issue within the setting. If there is still cause for concern after 4 weeks we will invite parents in to a formal meeting to discuss our approach and to see whether an ILPP (individual Learning and Provision Plan) would be appropriate for that child.*
- *Policies stating how we will deal with administering medication and promoting positive behaviour.*

In summary: Sheriff Hutton Preschool Playgroup is open to all children aged 2-5 who wish to attend. We have a team of experienced and caring staff who will make both you and your child feel welcome in our setting. We will view each child as an individual and will use our expertise to plan for them to the best of our abilities. We will always ask for, and respect parent's views about their child's development and education and we will work hard to ensure that your child progresses well and is happy, excited and safe whilst with us at playgroup.

