



Frequently Asked Questions

We thought it might be beneficial to address some of the more common queries raised in case other parents/carers may find the information useful.

Why is fundraising so important to the Pre School?

Sunnyside Community Playgroup is a charitable Pre School and a non-profit making organisation. We do not operate in the same way as private profitable nurseries. All fees and funding we receive pay for the hire of the hall, related overheads and staff wages ... for everything else we rely on fund raising! For all of our resources such as toys, art and craft materials, books and outside equipment we rely on the kind generosity of our families and the local community.

Why do you need parent/carer help?

We will always ensure we have the appropriate staff: child ratios at Sunnyside, however an extra pair of hands really does make a huge difference to the running of the Pre School! Your help enables staff to provide a wider variety of activities for the children, carry out observations, focus on developing a particular child's interest, build on earlier development areas etc etc! Your help really does make a huge difference to our community Pre School!

Helping out also gives parents/carers the opportunity to take an active part in the group, to see what happens during a session and to talk about it afterwards with your child.

I can't commit to a whole session, is there another way I can contribute?

We are always grateful for any help you are able to offer. For example, should you be able to return half an hour before pick up time to help us pack away the outside toys, or to do the washing up, it really would be appreciated! If you think you might be able to help, please do speak to Hilary or Debbie.

Who can help?

Parents/carers, granny, granddad anyone is welcome (particularly Dads!!!)

Will I have to discipline the children?

No, please don't worry. Experience has shown that it works best when any discipline issues are handled by the staff. That way we can ensure that all the children are treated in a fair and consistent manner.

How will you settle my child in?

Every child is different and will settle at a different rate. Staff will work together with parents/carers to help the child feel happy, confident and secure as quickly as possible. Your input into this process is invaluable so please do feel free to discuss any concerns/suggestions with your child's key person.

When can I speak to my child's key person?

It is sometimes quite difficult for staff to speak to parents/carers at the beginning of the session as we are focusing on settling the children. It is usually easier to have a catch up at the end of a session. If there are several parents/carers wishing to speak to a member of staff, or a more confidential setting is required, it may be more appropriate to make an appointment to meet at a mutually convenient time. Please do not hesitate to discuss your requirements with your child's key person.



Why are the staff unable to change wet nappies?

A 'nappy run' for 10 children would take a member of staff away for c. 45 minutes (a change of apron, gloves, change mat paper etc is required between each child)! If we committed to a full nappy run during every session we would actually have to limit the activities we could offer the other children whilst this took place! We will of course change nappies if a child has a dirty nappy or is uncomfortably wet. Please refer to the Continence policy for further details.

Why do some of my child's pictures just look like scribbles?

OFSTED encourage child-led creativity and 'mark making' as an important part of their development. We could send the children home with 'perfect' pieces of artwork, but it might well reflect more of the staff's contribution than that of the child! What might look like scribbles is probably something far more significant to your child ask them what they've created ... they might surprise you!!

Why doesn't my child always bring creative work home?

During free play children chose which activities they wish to participate in. We do encourage all of the children to complete some creative work, but whilst some children will happily sit and draw several pictures, others would prefer to flex their muscles on the climbing frame and slide! If you have any concerns about the volume of creative work your child is bringing home, please do not hesitate to speak to Hilary or their key person. Please save and bring in any shiny items for us that may be suitable for creative work – they are always really popular with the children!

What does my child need to bring to preschool and where should I put it all?

Warm outdoor coat (we try to take the children outside for some fresh air whatever the weather!) outdoor and indoor shoes please. Our first activity of the morning is usually outside play so please leave your child in their outdoor shoes. When we come back inside staff will help children change into their indoor shoes. Please leave their indoor shoes in the labelled basket under the church seat. Coats and bags should be left on your child's peg. It would also be really helpful if all children could have a change of clothes in case of any accidents! Please make sure all belongings are clearly named.

What is the 'home box' used for?

Sometimes children find it easier to settle if they can bring in a familiar toy or 'snuggle'. Once registration has taken place we encourage all children to put their things in the home box for safe keeping. Should any child become upset during Pre School, staff will ask them if they would like their special toy for a little while. At all other times we will encourage children to leave their things in the home box. Could we please ask for your support in this as we cannot guarantee that 'home' toys played with throughout the session will not get lost or damaged. As you can imagine, trying to keep track of over 20 personal (and special!) toys is not easy!

Why do we have to take home dirty nappies?

Unfortunately we do not have the facilities for disposal of dirty nappies. Any dirty nappies will be double bagged and placed out of reach of children. Parents/carers will be asked to take nappies home for safe disposal.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to speak to Hilary or any other member of staff. We will be happy to answer them for you.