



Bath Area Play Project

www.bapp.org.uk (01225) 832479

The Hut Pre-school at the heart of Twerton



**Ofsted**

raising standards
improving lives

"Staff encourage children to try new activities and to judge risks themselves. Children demonstrated a strong "can do" attitude. Staff provide enabling conditions for children to extend their play and successfully help children to learn positive attitudes and challenge negative stereotypes with thoughtfully focused resources."

Overall Grading; GOOD October 2012

The Inspector was impressed with the welcoming and nurturing environment and use of the outside space; that the staff knew the children well and parents and children were happy and settled and enjoying learning through play.

The Hut Pre-school is a community run Pre-school based in Twerton, Bath which opens term time only for children aged from 9 months to 4.5 years. Based in The Hut, the pre-school is permanently set up and divided into different areas for learning and play. Children play and learn together; we do not provide a separate baby room as we believe that children learn from each other and this better replicates life in the home and community. There is a home corner which can also be a hospital, shop or office to fit in with the children's learning.

We have plenty of space for physical exploration whether inside or out with a secure, well fenced garden with bike tracks, hiding places, play equipment and sand and water. Inside we have a soft play room and sensory room and different spaces for different play and learning opportunities.

We organise the day so that the children can take part in a variety of child-led play and adult-led learning activities. These take account of children changing energy levels throughout the day.

As children start to learn about the world as soon as they are born, the care and education offered by The Hut pre-school helps to encourage children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities and play that are right for their age and stage of development.

For children between the ages of 3 and 5 years, the pre-school provides a curriculum for the Foundation Stage of education. This curriculum is set out in a document, published by the Qualification and Curriculum Authority and the Department for Education and Skills, and is called "Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage". The Hut pre-school follows this guidance.

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

- communication and language;
- physical development;
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and
- expressive arts and design

For each area, the guidance sets out early learning goals. These goals state what is expected that the 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 describes the stages through which the children are likely to pass as they move to achievement of the goal. The Hut pre-school uses the early learning goals and their stepping stones to help us trace each child's progress and to enable us to provide the right activities to help each child move towards achievement of the early learning goals.

The principles outlined in this document are ones that the Hut Pre-school already adhere to, for example:

- Being an inclusive organisation
- Working closely with parents
- Promoting healthy life styles
- Empowering children to make good choices
- Providing a stimulating, exciting learning environment.

The seven areas of learning

There are seven areas of learning and development which cover a child's development from Birth - 5 years old. The learning objectives for the adult led activities are taken from the development stages within each of the seven areas, so your child's development is charted through each area.

Each child will be observed during their time at the Pre-school by their key worker to establish where they are within their development and learning stage. With this observation information, staff then evaluate and plan individual activities to develop your child further with their learning.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

- communication and language;
- physical development; and
- personal, social and emotional development

Providers must also support children in four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and
- expressive arts and design



The seven areas of learning and development are:

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. This is about children becoming good listeners and confident speakers. As children develop listening and speaking skills they build the foundation for literacy

- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. This is about children developing and practising their physical skills and increasing an understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to do to be healthy and safe.

- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities. This is about knowing who you are, where you fit in and feeling good about yourself. It is about developing respect for others, making friends and wanting to learn

- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest. This includes making sense of verbal and visual signs and eventually for reading and writing learning about and using words and writing in different situations.

- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

This is about children developing their understanding of numbers, measurements, patterns, shape and space in enjoyable ways where they can explore, learn, practise and talk about them

• **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. This is about children solving problems, making decisions, experimenting, predicting, planning and questioning in different situations. It is also about exploring and finding out about their environment, people and places that have significance in their lives.

• **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology. This is about children exploring and sharing their thoughts, ideas and feeling through a variety of art, design, technology, music, movement, dance and imaginative and role play activities. Childrens response to what they see hear and experience through their senses are individual and the way they represent experiences is valuable and unique.



Feeling Secure

It is very important for us at The Hut Pre-school that children feel secure and settled. We also feel it is important that parents/carers feel that the Pre-school is the right place for your children. We place a huge emphasis on providing not only a physically safe place for the children to be in but also an emotionally safe place. Staff are trained well and give comfort to children because we want to make sure that children are able to have a cuddle, their dummy or a special comforter if needed.

We recognise that it is important for children to develop secure attachments and we try to ensure that staff work closely in teams so children will have the opportunity to bond with a few key people so that if one staff member is away, a child will not be left feeling bereft.

Once children are settled, they will be allocated a Keyworker; one of the staff who will take particular responsibility for observing, planning and supporting your child's learning. This staff member will be able to tell you how they are progressing and share with you your child's learning diary. This adult is your first point of contact with the Pre-school. They are responsible for your child's individual needs. They are also responsible for keeping you informed of your child's development progress through observations and planning. Your key worker will review your child's progress every six months and during transition parents are welcome to meet with the key worker if required

We help to establish routines where they are not in place or support ongoing routines that you, their parent have set up, in order for them to feel secure and where possible we aim to provide visual routines so that they are accessible for all.

Rewarding good behaviour and celebrating children's achievements is central to all that we do at The Hut Pre-school. There are a variety of ways we do this and it is an ever evolving area. In order for children to feel secure they must feel safe, therefore we have a very clear behaviour policy to encourage good behaviour that sends a clear message to children who hurt others.

Parents as Partners

We believe that parents are the prime educators for their children and we want to help support your child's learning by ensuring that you, the parents, understand your child's progress and development. We do not support the use of dummies whilst children are in the Pre-school as research has shown that they can have a negative impact on early speech and language development for babies and children.

You can support their development in many ways; by reading or talking with your child at home, talking whilst shopping – asking your child to point or show you red things or count how many apples you have bought. When out for a walk or going on the bus, looking and talking about what you see, how many people are on the bus, what colour the front doors are. We ask that parents put their phones away before they come into the Pre-school. Your child benefits hugely from eye contact and positive interaction with their parent/prime carer so please ensure that phones are kept in bags/pockets and not used in the setting. This is part of our support for enhancing children's early speech and communication.

We have play sacks and story sacks as well as books which parents can borrow to take and use at home as well as a Toy Library. Once you have joined, you can borrow a wide range of toys and equipment to use at home for up to a month. See the BAPP website to look through the electronic catalogue or ask a Pre-school staff member to show you the paper version.

Our Standards

A safe, secure environment is obviously of great importance to any parent leaving their child in an Early Years setting. The Hut provides a safe and secure environment with a secure fence and gate outdoors. We welcome parents/carers to stay with their child/ren for as long as they need to, to help them settle in.

Our Admissions policy means that at the time of booking your child's place you will be asked to complete a Registration Form and All About me form including which people will be allowed to collect your child. Your child will be signed in on the register each time they attend the Hut Pre-school and signed out when they are collected.

Any visitors or contractors must produce a form of ID before they gain access to the Pre-school and they are required to sign a visitors book; which is monitored regularly to ensure that relevant procedures are being followed.

Health and Safety also plays an important part in maintaining a safe environment for staff to work in as well as children to play and learn in. We ensure that we provide a safe environment for all children, parents and staff. Our in house procedures and practices are monitored on a regular basis to ensure compliance. Our Pre-school staff receive regular training and updates on Health and Safety issues and all staff will hold a Paediatric First Aid and Food Hygiene Certificate as well as attend training in Safeguarding/ Child Protection and Health and Safety.

We provide a snack in the morning session; please advise staff if your child has allergies.

Routine

We aim to provide a healthy, stimulating environment for all children. We believe that children learn best when they are happy, interested and able to relive their experiences through their most natural channel: playing and movement

The opportunity for free play and movement is therefore a very significant reason for giving children access to the outside for the majority of the day.

The children will also learn through dance, music, imagination and exploration with the main focus on fun while at play!

9.00am Children arrive / Welcome & Free Play

The children are registered and are invited to choose their free play activities

9.30am - 10.30am Mixture of adult-led activities and child-led play

Children are gathered together and staff engage the children with discussions about the day. Some Children work in small groups with an adult and the remaining children have the choice of activities such as role play, construction, mark making and painting. There is a host of free play activities to choose from inside and outside (irrespective of weather)

10.30 Snack

Children choose themselves fresh fruit and drinks and sit with staff at tables.

10.45am - Sharing Time and today's weather / birthday board

We celebrate the mornings achievements followed by a story or music time

11.00am - Group time

Adult led activity time, focusing on the children's interests

11.30am - 12.30pm Lunch

First session ends and some children will leave around 11.30am. For those staying for the wrap around lunch session, the children eat their packed lunches alongside staff at the table.

12.30pm Mixture of adult-led activities and child-led play

Children arrive for the afternoon session. Some Children work in small groups with an adult and the remaining children have the choice of activities such as role play, construction, mark making and painting. There is a host of free play activities to choose from inside and outside (irrespective of weather, under covered outdoor areas).

1.30 – 2.00pm Group Time

Adult led activity time, focusing on the children's interests

2.00 pm Afternoon Snack

Children choose themselves fresh fruit and drinks and sit with staff at tables

2.15pm Together Time

We celebrate the afternoon's achievements followed by a story or music time

3.00pm Session ends

Registration and Fees

We encourage parents/carers to visit and spend some time in the Pre-school with their child. We believe that every child is unique and that some children will enjoy learning and flourish in the caring atmosphere with high staff ratios, excellent facilities and flexible approaches to every child's learning.

There are two sessions each day Monday to Friday; 9am – 11.30am and 12.30pm to 3pm. Each session costs £9. We also offer a wrap around lunch session which can be combined with the morning and/or afternoon session for an additional £3. We do not currently charge different rates for younger children.

Morning or Afternoon Session	£9
Morning plus wrap around lunch session	£12
Wrap around Lunch session plus Afternoon Session	£12
Whole day session including lunch session	£21

From January 2013, children aged two years will be entitled to receive up to 15 hours of early years education funded by Government.

Once your child is three years of age, they are entitled to receive up to 15 hours free early years education funded by Government. This is equivalent to 5 sessions at the Hut Pre-school. You can choose this to be a combination of morning and/or afternoon sessions but where you would like to combine two sessions in one day with a wrap around lunch session, you will need to pay the additional £3 per day.

For example, if you would like to book three whole days from 9am to 3pm, your Early Years entitlement will pay for 15 hours, leaving you to pay the remaining £18 per week. If you also use another Early Years setting you, the setting where your child attends the most will receive the amount allocated

Where children aged under two, you will need to pay the cost in total. We ask that parents pay weekly or monthly either by cash, cheque or electronic bank transfer. Account Name: Bath Area Play Project Account No.: 65005804 Sort Code: 08-90-02 please use your child's surname as a reference using a pre-fix of PRS e.g. PRS SMITH.

