



# Playhouse Preschool Prospectus



## More Information

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# Welcome

Welcome to Playhouse Preschool. We are committed to offering a nurturing, creative, and fun environment for children aged 2-5 years of age. Our goal is to create a positive, safe space where children can explore, learn, and grow, preparing them for the transition to primary school.

## About us

Established in 1979, Playhouse Preschool has built a strong reputation for quality care and education in the Broadwater community, within Stevenage, Hertfordshire. We pride ourselves on being a local community preschool that focuses on children's individual needs and development through play-based learning. Our dedicated staff, with many years of experience, understand how to guide children at this crucial stage of their lives, ensuring a smooth transition from preschool to primary education.



# Our Vision and Mission

We believe that early childhood education is the foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth. Our mission is to nurture a child's natural curiosity while providing an environment that encourages learning through play. We focus on building confidence, fostering creativity, and promoting independence in every child who attends our preschool.

# Opening Hours and Sessions

We are a term time only preschool, offering flexible session times to suit the needs of parents and children.

Breakfast Club	8.00 - 9.00
Morning session	9.00 - 12.00
Lunch club	12.00 - 12.30
Afternoon session	12.30 - 3.30



Sessions can be taken in any combination, to meet your needs.





# Age Groups

We provide care and education for children between 2 and 5 years of age. The children are divided into two groups based on age:

**Caterpillar Room:** For children aged 2-3 years, focusing on developing early personal, social and emotional skills and self-expression through creative and sensory play.

**Butterfly Room:** For children aged 3-5 years, preparing them for the transition to school with the focus being 'school readiness'.

Both rooms are equipped with age-appropriate toys, educational materials, and resources designed to enhance the children's learning experiences. Our facilities include a large outdoor space where children can enjoy free play, physical activities, and explore nature.



# Curriculum and Activities

Our curriculum is rooted in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, with a strong focus on learning through play. Each day is structured to include a variety of activities designed to stimulate children's interests and promote development across the following areas:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Children are encouraged to explore and express their creativity through messy play, arts and crafts, cookery sessions, and even caring for small animals. We also integrate outdoor learning through forest school activities that connect children with nature, helping them learn about the environment in a hands-on way.

# Key Events and Celebrations

At Playhouse Preschool, we believe in the importance of celebrating cultural diversity. We celebrate all festivals and celebrations that reflect our current cohort of children and host regular events throughout the year, such as Christmas craft sessions, Mother's and Father's Day Celebrations



# Parent Involvement

We encourage parents to take an active role in their child's early education. From daily feedback to progress consultations, we strive to maintain strong communication between home and preschool. Parents are also invited to attend special events, workshops, and stay-and-play sessions to better understand their child's progress every half term. We use Eylog to share important information and weekly observations with our families.

Parents/carers are welcome to help during the session - a rota is located in the foyer to put your name down. Please only volunteer once your child has settled.

# Healthy Eating



We promote healthy eating habits by providing a healthy snack each session and growing our own fruits/vegetables with the children. We encourage children to try a variety of fruits, vegetables, and healthy options while teaching them about the importance of a balanced diet.

Children scheduled for a full day and attending Lunch Club are required to bring in their own packed lunch.

# Safeguarding and Well-being

The safety and well-being of the children in our care are paramount. We have robust safeguarding policies in place, and all staff are trained to follow best practices to ensure the protection of every child. Our preschool provides a welcoming, inclusive environment where children of all abilities feel valued and supported.



# Registration

If you would like to enquire about a place for your child, please click on the below link. There is no registration fee to add your child to our waiting list.

[Playhouse Preschool Enquiry Form](#)

We encourage prospectus families to drop in anytime to have a look around our pre-school and no appointment is necessary. The best times are between 9.30-11.30am and 1-3pm to avoid times when children are being collected/dropped off.

# Allocation of Spaces

After the enquiry form is completed, you will be placed on our waiting list before being offered a place.

We arrange our waiting list in the following order:

- The date the child's enquiry form was submitted
- The date of birth of the child





# Settling In

Starting Pre-school can be exciting but we recognise it can also be an emotional and anxious time. Home visits are offered to families before they start preschool. Children are then allocated two free settling sessions to explore Playhouse together before their first session and to meet the key worker. Settling in is an individual journey and it certainly isn't a 'one size fits all' approach. Whilst we have the settling in process this can be tailored to meet your individual needs where needed.

# Starting Preschool

When starting preschool, your child will need:

- A pair of wellies to remain at preschool
- A water bottle each session
- Spare clothing, nappies and wipes if applicable
- Sun cream applied before attending on warmer days
- All children will receive a Playhouse Preschool drawstring bag

Please ensure all of your child's belongings are named.



# Uniform

School uniform is optional at Playhouse. Here is a link if you would like to purchase our Playhouse Pre-School uniform.

[Playhouse Preschool Uniform](#)

We also have preloved uniform and wellington boots located in our foyer for you to help yourself to.

# Fees

Our fees as of 1st April 2025:

Breakfast Club 8.00 - 9.00 £6.00 (excluded from funded hours)

Morning session 9.00 - 12.00 £18.00

Lunch club 12.00 - 12.30 £3.00 (for children attending a full day)

Afternoon session 12.30 - 3.30 £18.00

Our fees include snack and we do not charge for any additional consumables. Invoices are due on the last Friday of each month.

Missed sessions due to illness, holidays, etc will still be invoiced.



# Funding

We accept all Government funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. To see if you are eligible please follow this link. The website will help you understand what entitlements you may be able to receive.

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

You can apply for the 30 hour entitlement via the following link

[www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

If eligible, you will receive a code, please provide the preschool with the code as we will need it to claim for the funding on your behalf.

All children receive 15 hour universal funding the term after their third birthday.

Families can use their funded hours in any combination of sessions. Your child can also attend above their funded hours at the current session rates.

# Forest School

Forest School is a unique educational approach that takes learning outdoors. Encouraging children to explore, play, and learn in a natural environment. It is a child-centered approach where children lead their own activities, fostering independence, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Through hands-on experiences like building, crafting, and exploring nature, children develop confidence, resilience, and a deeper connection to the world around them. This approach supports their physical, emotional, and social development, all while having fun in the fresh air!

Our Forest School sessions will take place in the 'Secret Garden' within the grounds of Longmeadow Primary School every Friday morning for our Butterfly children. Children will need to be dressed appropriately to participate as the sessions will take place whatever the weather. However, the preschool provide rainsuits for all children to wear.





# Contact Us

For more information about enrollment, fees, and visiting our preschool, please feel free to contact us or visit our website.

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We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Playhouse Preschool!