



Information for Parents - Your child starting at playgroup

Martyrs Church Hall

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www.hopscotchplaygroup.com

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Hopscotch Playgroup opened in September 2006 and provides child centred care and early education for children aged between 2 and 5 years.

At Hopscotch we aim to provide:-

- a safe, friendly and fun environment
- opportunities for children to gain in confidence as they develop independence and explore an environment away from their homes and families
- a rich environment, enabling children to learn through play and extend their play and learning through good quality talk and interactions with adults
- a high standard of care
- a range of learning opportunities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage



We have five members of staff, Lorraine (manager), Ruth (deputy), Lindsay, Caroline and Sabine.



In addition, we have some regular volunteers and we support students on placement from various colleges.

Opening Times and Fees

Hopscotch is open from 9am to 12 noon every week day morning during school term times. We also open in the afternoons from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Some 3- and 4-year-old children can stay for lunch.

Fees are £15.00 per session. Fees are to be paid on the first session your child attends each week. We accept payment weekly, monthly or termly in advance.

We accept cash or direct bank transfer, we can let you have our bank details on request. **Please note** that we are a non-profit making organisation and therefore rely on fees being paid on time.

We are registered to provide early education under the Free Early Education Entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds. All children are funded for 15 hours a week from the term following their 3rd birthday and some eligible families can access 30 hours a week of funding.

Absence

If your child is unable to attend Hopscotch for any reason, whether it be due to holidays or illness, fees still need to be paid in full.

If the absence has been due to illness, please inform a member of staff.

Snack

Children are provided with a drink of milk or water and a healthy snack during the session. We enjoy eating together and favourites include toast, cheese and crackers, hummus, cereal and a wide variety of fruit and vegetables.

Fresh water is also available to the children throughout the day.



Occasionally we bake our own snack and do cooking activities, such as making our own mini pizzas, bread rolls or gingerbread people. Also, sometimes, we have special or celebratory party snacks.



It is therefore important that we are aware of any allergies, food intolerances or dietary requirements. Please ensure this information, along with any preferences with regard to religious observance, are on the registration form.

Security

Please ensure you sign your child in every session, we have a file for this purpose by the gate each day. If somebody different will be collecting your child from Hopscotch **PLEASE** let us know on the signing-in sheet. Your child will not be let out of our care if we are not aware of this arrangement, until you have confirmed the information is correct.

Illness

Please do not send your child to Hopscotch if they are ill. If your child has been sick or has had a bout of diarrhoea, they must be kept off playgroup for at least 48 hours from the last bout of illness.

If a child becomes ill whilst at Hopscotch, every effort will be made to contact you so that arrangements can be made for them to be collected. If a child becomes seriously ill or has a serious accident an ambulance will be called.

Medication

If your child needs medication whilst at Hopscotch please speak to Lorraine, as you will need to fill in a medication form.

First Aid

Any accident that requires first aid is recorded in the accident book. Parents/carers will be informed and you will be asked to sign the accident record as an indication that you are aware of what has happened.



Clothing

We do lots of messy activities indoors and out at Hopscotch. Therefore, please send your child in comfortable play clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat in winter and suitable shoes.

Wellington boots are useful in winter and 'cros' or similar plastic shoes are good for summer. We do provide aprons for messy activities, but they do not always cover everything!



We would also recommend that long hair is tied back.

It is helpful too if children can manage their own clothing, especially when toilet training! Trousers and leggings may be easier for younger children than dungarees or tights.

However, accidents do happen, this is no problem but your child may feel more confident and comfortable in his/her own clothing.

Please send a change of clothes in a named bag. If your child is in nappies, please also send nappies and wipes with the change of clothes in a named bag.

A typical session at Hopscotch might look something like this.....

9am or 12.30pm.....Arrival, signing-in and free play activities, inside and outdoors - messy and creative play, role-play area, construction and physical play.

Mid-session..... Snack time

After snack..... More free play: maybe time in the book area or counting, jigsaw puzzles or sand and water play. Or maybe... movement and dance, music time, physical play.....

At the end of sessions at 12 noon or 3.30pm, we tidy up and get ready to go home; there may be time for a singing time together.

And finally.....We want your child to settle quickly and have a happy time with us. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please speak to Lorraine or any of the staff. We'd love to hear what you think!