

Early years prospectus

Name of provider WEST HILL PRE SCHOOL

Address West Hill Village Hall
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 Devon
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Ofsted ref; 105924

Pre-school Learning Alliance and registered charity - number 1027986

Our setting aims to:

- provide high quality care and education for children below statutory school age;
- work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop;
- add to the life and well-being of the local community; and
- offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity.

We aim to ensure that each child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment;
 - is given generous care and attention, because of our ratio of qualified staff to children, as well as volunteer parent helpers;
 - has the chance to join with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together;
 - is helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do;
 - has a personal key person who makes sure each child makes satisfying progress;
 - is in a setting that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop; and
- is in a setting in which parents help to shape the service it offers.

Sessions

The Pre School is open 38 weeks each year.

Sessions are subject to some change, depending on parental requirements and available funding, but currently, sessions are offered every day from 9.15am until 11.45am. In addition on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12.45pm until 3.15pm. Lunch Club, where your child brings a packed lunch, is also available from 11.45am to 12.45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Children who are in the term prior to entrance to primary school and who obtain a place at West Hill Primary School will also visit the reception class at West Hill Primary School and the reception teacher to ensure that the transition from Pre School to school runs smoothly. (Please note that securing a place at West Hill Pre School has no bearing upon whether that child will be offered a place at West Hill Primary School, since West Hill Primary School operates its admissions criteria completely independently of the Pre School.)

The Pre School also operates a **toddler** group, which runs from 9.15am to 11am on a Monday morning in the rooms upstairs. Currently, a Pre School staff member provides a craft session for the toddlers who attend and this group provides a good opportunity for all new parents to meet local friends and to be introduced to the Pre School.

Facilities

The Pre School has the use of a ground floor room, outside area, ground floor kitchen and large upstairs room and kitchen. The toddler group has the use of 2 upstairs rooms and the upstairs kitchen.

The ground floor room has adjacent kitchen facilities and direct access to a secure outside play area. The area is fenced and comprises a grass area with play equipment and a tarmac area where bicycles and other equipment can be used when the weather is fine.

The upstairs room also has an adjacent kitchen and is a large area currently used by the toddler group and to provide additional sessions to meet capacity needs.

The Village Hall has reception areas, both upstairs and downstairs, where parents and children may wait prior to the beginning and end of each session. There are 2 notice boards in the Village Hall entrance hall, which provide useful information about the Pre School, and other events or courses, which are taking place in the community.

The Village Hall has male, female and disabled lavatories, on the ground floor. Children are always accompanied to the toilet by staff members. There is wheelchair access to the ground floor of the village hall and a small ramp can be used to provide access from the ground floor room to the outside area.

Parents

Parents are regarded as members of our setting who have full participatory rights. These include a right to be:

- valued and respected;
- kept informed;
- consulted; involved; and included at all levels

As a community based, voluntary managed setting, we also depend on the good will of parents and their involvement to keep going. Membership of the setting carries expectations on parents for their support and commitment

Children's development and learning

The provision for children's development and learning is guided by The Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE 2012). Our provision reflects the four guiding themes and principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

A Unique Child

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self assured.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways. the framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

How we provide for development and learning

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The Areas of Development and Learning comprise:

Prime Areas

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

Specific Areas

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

For each area, the level of progress children should be expected to have attained by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage is defined by the Early Learning Goals. These goals state what it is expected that children will know and be able to do by the end of the reception year of their education.

The 'Development Matters' guidance sets out the likely stages of progress a child makes along their learning journey towards the early learning goals. Our setting has regard to these matters when we assess children and plan for their learning.

Personal, social and emotional development

Our planning supports children to develop:

- making relationships
- self confidence and self awareness
- managing feelings and behaviour

Physical development

Our planning supports children to develop:

- moving and handling
- health and self-care

Communication and language

Our planning supports children to develop:

- listening and attention
- understanding
- speaking

Literacy

Our planning supports children to develop:

- reading
- writing

Mathematics

Our planning supports children to develop:

- *numbers*
- *shape space and measure*

Understanding the world

Our planning supports children to develop:

- people and communities
- the world
- technology

Expressive arts and design

Our planning supports children to develop:

- exploring and using media and materials
- being imaginative

Our approach to learning and development and assessment

Learning through play

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. Our setting uses the Early Years Foundation Stage 'Development Matters guidance to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. In some of these activities children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity. In all activities information from the Development Matters guidance to the Early Years Foundation Stage has been used to decide what equipment to provide and how to provide it.

Characteristics of effective learning

We understand that all children engage with other people and their environment through the characteristics of effective learning that are described in the Development Matters guidance to the Early Years Foundation Stage as:

- playing and exploring - engagement
- active learning - motivation
- creating and thinking critically - thinking

We aim to provide for the characteristics of effective learning by observing how a child is learning and being clear about what we can do and provide in order to support each child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

Assessment

We assess how young children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. We use information that we gain from observations, as well as from photographs, to document their progress and where this may be leading them. We believe that parents know their children best and we ask them to contribute to assessment by sharing information about what their children like to do at home and how they as parents are supporting development.

We make termly assessment summaries of children's achievement based on our ongoing development records. These form part of children's records of achievement. We undertake these assessment summaries at regular intervals as well as times of transition, such as when a child moves into a different group or when they go on to school.

The progress check at age two

The Early Years Foundation Stage requires that we supply parents and carers with a short written summary of their child's development in the three prime learning and development areas of the EYFS: personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language; when a child is aged between 24 - 36 months. The key person is responsible for completing the check using information from

ongoing observational assessments carried out as part of our everyday practice, taking account of the views and contributions of parents and other professionals.

Records of achievement

The setting keeps a record of achievement for each child. Staff and parents working together on their children's records of achievement is one of the ways in which the key person and parents work in partnership. Your child's record of achievement helps us to celebrate together her/his achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for her/his well-being and to make progress.

Your child's key person will work with you to keep this record. To do this you and she/he will collect information about your child's needs, activities, interests and achievements. This information will enable the key person to identify your child's stage of progress. You and the key person will then decide on how to help your child to move on to the next stage.

Working together for your children

In our setting we maintain the ratio of adults to children in the setting that is set through the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements. We also appreciate volunteer parent helpers where possible to complement these ratios. This helps us to:

- give time and attention to each child;
- talk with the children about their interests and activities;
- help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide; and
- allow the children to explore and be adventurous in safety.

The staff who work at our setting are:

Name:	Job Role:	Qualifications
Sara Dawe	Manager SENCO Safeguarding Officer	NNEB CACHE level 3 certificate in work with children
Louise Mansfield	EYP Assisatant Manager	Early Years Professional, NVQ3
Hillary Willis	Playleader	NNEB CACHE level 3 certificate in work with children
Claire Rush	Assistant	NVQ3 In Childcare
Debbie Greenslade Trump	Assistant	NVQ3 In Childcare

Paula Hazell	Assistant	NVQ2 In Childcare
Tammie Clarke	Assistant	NVQ3 In Childcare(awaiting certificate)

How parents take part in the setting

Our setting recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. All of the staff see themselves as partners with parents in providing care and education for their child. There are many ways in which parents take part in making the setting a welcoming and stimulating place for children and parents, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests and progress with the staff;
- contributing to the progress check at age two
- helping at sessions of the setting;
- sharing their own special interests with the children;
- helping to provide, make and look after the equipment and materials used in the children's play activities;
- being part of the management of the setting;
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by the setting;
- joining in community activities in which the setting takes part; and
- building friendships with other parents in the setting.

The parents' rota

The setting has a dated rota which parents can sign if they would like to help at a particular session or sessions of the setting. Helping at the session enables parents to see what the day-to-day life of the setting is like and to join in helping the children to get the best out of their activities.

Joining in

Joining the rota is not the only means of taking part in the life of the setting. Parents can offer to take part in a session by sharing their own interests and skills with the children.

We welcome parents to drop into the setting to see it at work or to speak with the staff.

Key persons and your child

Our setting uses a key person approach. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom she/he is particularly responsible. Your child's key person will be the person who works with you to make sure that what we provide is right for your child's particular needs and interests. When your child first starts at the setting, she/he will help your child to settle and throughout your child's time at the setting, she/he will help your child to benefit from the setting's activities.

Learning opportunities for adults

As well as gaining qualifications in early years care and education, our staff take part in further training to help them to keep up-to-date with thinking about early years care and education.

The setting also keeps itself up-to-date with best practice in early years care and education, as a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance, through the Under 5 magazine and publications produced by the Alliance.

The setting's timetable and routines

Our setting believes that care and education are equally important in the experience which we offer children.

The routines and activities that make up the day in the setting are provided in ways that:

- help each child to feel that she/he is a valued member of the setting;
- ensure the safety of each child;
- help children to gain from the social experience of being part of a group; and
- provide children with opportunities to learn and help them to value learning.

The session

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from, and work at, a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided in the indoor playroom(s).

Snacks and meals

The setting makes snacks and meals a social time at which children and adults eat together. We plan snacks so that they provide the children with healthy and nutritious food. Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met.

Policies

Copies of the setting's policies and procedures can be emailed to you or are on our website www.westhillpreschool.com or are available for you to see at the setting.

The setting's policies help us to make sure that the service provided by the setting is a high quality one and that being a member of the setting is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his parents.

The staff and parents of the setting work together to adopt the policies and they all have the opportunity to take part in the annual review of the policies. This review helps us to make sure that the policies are enabling the setting to provide a quality service for its members and the local community.

Safeguarding children

Our setting has a duty under the law to help safeguard children against suspected or actual 'significant harm'.

Our employment practices ensure children against the likelihood of abuse in our settings and we have a procedure for managing complaints or allegations against a member of staff.

Our way of working with children and their parents ensures we are aware of any problems that may emerge and can offer support, including referral to appropriate agencies when necessary, to help families in difficulty.

Special needs

As part of the setting's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special needs a child may have. The setting works to the requirements of the 1993 Education Act and The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001).

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator is Sara Dawe

The management of our setting

A parent management committee - whose members are elected by the parents of the children who attend the setting - manages the setting. The elections take place at our Annual General Meeting. The committee is responsible for:

- managing the setting's finances;
- employing and managing the staff;
- making sure that the setting has, and works to, policies that help it to provide a high quality service; and
- making sure that the setting works in partnership with the children's parents.

The Annual General Meeting is open to the parents of all of the children who attend the setting. It is our shared forum for looking back over the previous year's activities and shaping the coming year's plan.

Fees

The fees are £3.73 per hour payable within the first few weeks of term. We are in receipt of Early Years Entitlement funding which usually starts from the term after the child's third birthday. (Exact details of when your child is eligible are available from the preschool administrator). Your child must regularly attend during

the term to retain the funding. Where funding is not received, then fees apply. For your child to keep her/his place at the setting, you must pay the fees. Once term has started you are committed to paying the complete terms fees and if your child leaves or misses too many sessions you may also need to repay the funding.. If your child has to be absent over a long period of time, talk to committee chairperson or Sara Dawe who is the manager. We accept several different types of childcare vouchers – please contact the preschool administrator for further information.

In exceptional circumstances charges may be waived. Please contact the committee Chairperson for further information.

We are also a 2gether provider, which is an Early Years Entitlement funding programme for disadvantaged 2 year olds. Please contact the Administrator for further information, or contact your local Children's Centre.

Starting at our setting

The first days

We want your child to feel happy and safe with us. To make sure that this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into the setting. The setting has a policy about helping children to settle into the setting.

Clothing

We provide protective clothing for the children when they play with messy activities.

We encourage children to gain the skills that help them to be independent and look after themselves. These include going to the toilet and taking off, and putting on, outdoor clothes. Clothing that is easy for them to manage will help them to do this. Please ensure coats are named.

Ofsted

We work in association with the Preschool Learning Alliance and we comply with the requirements of Ofsted, the overseeing body that regulates our Preschool. Our last inspection occurred in July 2012 and this praised the efforts made by everyone to provide an outstanding Preschool education. Copies of this can be lent, upon request or viewed on the Ofsted website.

We hope that you and your child enjoy being members of our setting and that you both find taking part in our activities interesting and stimulating. The staff are always ready and willing to talk with you about your ideas, views or questions.