



Young Discoverers Pre-school

South Hill Early Years Centre, Cemetery Hill, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP1 1JF

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*A community project on behalf of South Hill Centre
the charity wing of South Hill Church,
for two year olds to school entry.*



Parent News September 2022

Current Staff

Theresa Cartwright, Manager L6 EYP, Designated Safeguarding Lead, SENCO

Tara Dell, Deputy L3

Victoria Fernandes, Deputy L3

Emily Kay Pre-School Practitioner L3 Trainee

Naomi Rose, Pre-School Practitioner L3

Louise Munro, Pre-School Practitioner L6 QTS

Samantha Creed, Pre-School Practitioner L2

Simie Fernandes, Administrator

All staff receive core training including: Paediatric First Aid and Child Protection, refreshed every 3 years. Young Discoverers commits to supporting the professional development of all staff members and training a programs are planned each year. Parents may request to see certificates for core training. Parents may also request a copy of any policy document.

Welcome to all of our new and returning children. We trust you all had a good Summer break and are ready for some new adventures and challenges this year.

We operate an open door policy and everyone is welcome, children are all accepted and encouraged to develop and learn in a way that reflects their personality and interests or strengths. All children need space to play and learn and mistakes are a normal part of children's development. We work with parents and carers to find the best solutions to any difficulties. Please feel free to talk with your key person about any matters, or talk to Theresa Cartwright in confidence.

New Starters: Starting Pre-School is a big step for young children. As parents and carers you may also feel quite anxious about settling your child and leaving them, especially if it is your child's first experience of being away from you. Children will pick up on a parent's anxiety, and it will help to show you are confident in your child's ability to settle. All children are strong and resilient and capable.

The first week of the Autumn Term will be a relaxed time, for you to talk with us and share your experience and knowledge about how your child plays and interacts with you at home. This way we can get to know you and better understand your child so we can help them settle and become confident to play and explore.

Family Photographs: We would love to display some of your family photo's on our home board. Children like to look at themselves and others and it helps them to make connections between home and pre-school.

Facebook Group: Young Discoverers has a closed Facebook group and all parents are invited to join. We will post notices and other information bulletins on Facebook in additional to the letters and notices given to parents. Parents may add their own photo's or comments too about their own child. Please observe our Safeguarding and data protection policies and remain positive respectful when making posts. Please do not use the Facebook group to make enquiries or requests or complaints, these must be made at the office, or by contacting Theresa Cartwright. We will remove any contact that posts offensive or hurtful comments towards others without notice. See our E-Safety policy and Complaints policy.

What to bring: Please provide nappies and wipes and/or spare clothes in case of accidents. Children will go outside on most days and will also need warm clothing. On wet muddy days children should wear wellington boots and change into suitable indoor footwear on arrival before entering the playroom. Please label all clothing.

Lunch Club & Snacks: For those children staying all day, you must provide a healthy packed lunch and drink for your child can eat themselves. No sweets or fizzy drinks please. We are unable to re-heat food. You must tell us if your child has any allergy or special dietary requirements.

We provide healthy snacks during the morning and afternoon sessions, which include a selection of fruits and breads with milk or water to drink.

Allergies and Medical Requirements:

- ❖ Please inform the office when your child is absent from pre-school.
- ❖ **The office must be informed of any child with allergies or medication needs.** No medication will be administered without written consent.
- ❖ Please be aware we require **a 48 hour absence from pre-school following sickness and/or diarrhoea** to prevent the spread of infections.
- ❖ Please let a member of staff know if your child has been given Calpol (or any medication) before coming to pre-school. **If your child is unwell and has a persistent temperature please keep them at home.**

Payment Terms: Fees are payable in advance of attendance. You may pay at the start of each week or month, or pay for each half term or full term. Invoices will be sent at the start of each term. Fees may be paid by bank transfer, or cash. Sessions are allocated at the start of term and are payable regardless of whether your child is ill or on holiday.

30 Hours funding for working parents: A reminder that you need to **renew your code every 6 weeks.** For working parents who wish to know how to claim up to 30 free funded hours go to www.gov.uk/childcarechoices.

Uniform tops: If you wish to purchase our blue tops with the Young Discoverers Logo, please ask at the office. Polo shirts are £8 each, and sweat tops are £9 each.

Curriculum: We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework. There are 7 areas of learning, which include:

- ❖ **3 primary areas** (Physical development, Communication & Language, Personal, Social and Emotional development).
- ❖ **4 specific areas** (Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design).

Our timetable offers children a balance of structured learning as well as free flow play, where children are supported to learn as they pursue their own interests. Your child has a Key Person who will work with you to help them learn and develop skills and abilities in all of the 7 areas of learning. We encourage you to share with your Key Person anything that you feel would contribute to your child's wellbeing and learning experience at Pre-School. You will also be asked to contribute to your child's termly assessments. A learning journal of observations, photographs and samples of work will be compiled by your key person, which you will be given when your child leaves Pre-School.

This year we are working towards the **Early Years Quality Standards Award (EYQS):**

Wellcomm Toolkit

We know that speech and language developmental is key to children's learning and our aim is to help all children to become confident communicators. About half way through the Autumn Term, all nursery children will be screened using the Hertfordshire Wellcomm Toolkit, devised by Speech and Language therapists. The toolkit is used to identify children's level of development according to their age. It highlights for each child those skills that they have already mastered as well as any specific skills they are yet to acquire. The toolkit has many age appropriate fun games and activities that can be used to help develop all of the skills that children will need to become confident talkers. Staff working with the toolkit are trained and qualified to do so and the screening results will be discussed with you.

Security and Access: Please be aware that mobile phones and cameras are not to be used in this building.

Please do not take photographs at any time or make or receive calls when dropping off and picking up your child. Please make sure the main building door, electric gate on the pathway are shut behind you as they provide security for your children and those of other parents (ensure your child is supervised at all times whilst in your care).

Car Park/drop-off area: All families please be alert when using the drop off parking area, **children need to be supervised at all times. No extended parking at any time.**

Diary Dates:

<u>Autumn Term 2022:</u>	Monday 5 September - Wednesday 21 December 2022
Half Term Closure:	Monday 24 October - Friday 28 October 2022
Christmas Closure:	Thursday 22 December – Wednesday 4 January 2023
Inset Day Closure:	Thursday 1, & Friday 2 September 2022, Staff Training
<u>Spring Term 2023:</u>	Monday 5 January - Friday March 31 2023
Half Term Closure:	Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February 2023
Easter Holiday Closure:	Monday 3 April - Friday 14 April 2023
<u>Summer Term 2023:</u>	Tuesday 18 April - Friday 21 July 2023
Half Term Closure:	Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June 2023
Inset Day Closure:	Monday 17 April 2023, Staff Training
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 1 May 2023
Summer break closure:	Monday 24 July 2023 – Thursday August 31 2023
Holiday Club weeks:	Weeks commencing Monday 24 July, Monday 31 July, subject to demand

Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer:

'If you're new to SEND then knowing where to start finding the right support for your child can be overwhelming. Your child may have just been diagnosed with SEND, or may be in the process of being assessed. Or perhaps you've just started to notice that your child or young person is developing, behaving, or learning differently to their peers. It can be a confusing time. The Local Offer website gives you the right information at the right time to support you and your family.'

Search Hertfordshire Local Offer for more information

Other Contacts:

Children's Services: Tel: 0300 123 4043

Ofsted: www.ofsted.gov Tel: 0300 123 4666

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org Tel: 116 123

Christians against poverty UK – www.capuk.org

If you need any further support, please talk to Theresa Cartwright who will try to signpost other organisations to help with your situation.

Theresa Cartwright
Manager