



## **Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots**

WI Hall, Station Road, Copmanthorpe, YO23 3SX

Member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance

Registered charity number 1035584

Ofsted number 321619

## **Our Aims: The Early Years Foundation Stage**

### **Policy Statement**

*Panda Playgroup aims to:*

- provide high quality care and education for children aged 2-4;
- work in partnership with parents, other settings and external professionals 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;
- has the chance to join with other children and adults to play 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 supports each child to feel secure, valued and confident at Playgroup enabling them to have fun and develop through play.
- is in a playgroup that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop; and
- is in a playgroup in which parents help to shape the service it offers.

### **Children's development and learning**

The provision for children's development and learning is guided by The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (Department for Education 2012) which comes into law in September 2012. Our provision reflects the four key themes of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- The Unique child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

*How we provide for development and learning*



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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. We encourage and support children to learn and develop through the characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically.

Children will be supported to learn skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for children's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan children's learning and activities. The staff at Panda Playgroup will ensure that the activities are suited to each child's unique needs.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

### *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. Panda Playgroup staff use the practice guidance Early Years Foundation Stage 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.



### *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 of the children, 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 do this through star sheets and talking to parents. The setting keeps these observations and pictures in a learning journal for each child. Children's learning journals help children, parents and staff to celebrate together achievements and to work together to provide what each child needs for her/his well-being and to make progress.

We also keep an ongoing record of children's development in the different areas of learning and development over time. We make annual written assessments of children's achievement based on our ongoing development records. These include information from children and parents and form part of children's records of achievement. We undertake the first summary of children's development between the child's second and third birthday and annually, as well as times of transition, such as when a child moves into a different setting such as school. Parents will meet with the child's key worker or Playgroup leader to discuss these records and to look at how the Playgroup and the family can support each child to develop further. Panda Playgroup also works in Partnership with other settings in the local area to ensure that we are able to effectively support children who attend more than one setting or who are making a transition between settings. Information is shared between settings with the permission of parents.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Panda Playgroup held on:  
Date to be reviewed:

Signed on behalf of the management committee:  
Name and role of signatory:

Signed on behalf of the staff team:  
Name and role of signatory:

