



Queen Elizabeth Village Hall, New Cut, Layer De La Haye. Colchester, CO2 0EG
info@layerpreschool.co.uk

Local Offer

Our aim is to give families an insight into the support that is available for their child/ren in our setting. We are an inclusive setting who values every child as being unique and can identify their individual needs through maintaining a positive working partnership with parents and outside professional agencies. We work towards supporting and promoting every child/ren(s) learning and developmental needs in an established environment that enables children to achieve their full potential.

Our approach to supporting learning and development

- Each child is allocated a Key Person who will work in partnership with parents to gain an insight into their child/ren(s) needs, care routines, developmental stages and learning styles. This information is gathered through informal meetings with parents and observations.
- Any concerns regarding a child(s) care routine, developmental stages and learning styles are raised with the Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo). The SENCo will work closely with the child's Parents and Key Person to differentiate resources, activities and experiences to support the child(s) ability to achieve. The named SENCo is Paula Clark.
- The SENCo and Key Person will involve both parents and their child/ren to plan and consider all aspects of their SEND. This will become a plan that will be known as your child's 'One Plan'.
- With parent permission the SENCo will liaise with outside professionals such as Speech and Language therapists, Early Years Advisory teachers, Health Visitors and Area SENCo to gain further advice to support you and your child/ren. The strategies and advice given from outside agencies will be discussed with parents and arrangements will be made to implement them through play.
- This process will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated with parents and any outside professionals on a regular basis.

How Parents/Carers are included in their child's education

We value the knowledge you have on your child and recognise that as parents you are your child's first and main educator. We will work closely with you to ensure that learning experiences are shared from both the home and preschool environment.

- From the beginning of your child's preschool journey the allocated Key Person will ask parent(s) to share key information so they can understand your child's interests, likes, dislikes and favourite toys and places. Sharing information will be continuous throughout your time at Layer Preschool.
- A newsletter is distributed to parents by email each week to offer opportunities to extend their learning at home and to outline the activities that will be taking place and any updates or news that is relevant.
- Parent(s) are invited to parent partnership days to discuss their child's development and celebrate their achievements and progress.
- Every child has a development folder which contains a portfolio of their learning journey. We record children's learning through written observations and photographs that are collated into individual development folders to share with parents. The development folder is available for parents to access at any time.
- We have a notice and communication boards situated around the entrance area that we use to share information and the child/ren's daily activities and experiences.
- We have a Facebook page that the preschool and parents use daily to relay any queries and questions and share information.
- Layer Preschool uses Tapestry to share observations with parents and works in partnership to gain an insight into the children's learning from home.

Positive Relationships

The preschool maintains positive relationships with families, children centres, primary and infant schools and outside professionals.

- All staff members are experienced and qualified practitioners who continue their professional development on a regular basis.
- Our named SENCo is Paula Clark who is a qualified Level 6 Early Years Practitioner and the Preschool Manager.
- The SENCo is involved in up to date training which enables her to promote and implement strategies to support children's individual developmental needs.
- The setting is governed by policies and procedures which are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure our provision is accessible to all.
- We have an open-door policy for parents to discuss any important matters. Staff members are available both at the beginning and at the end of sessions to answer your questions and help with any other concerns.
- All staff members use visuals and simple Makaton signs to encourage children to participate. This also supports communication and can reduce any insecurities and frustration.

- The preschool has close links with other provisions in the community and can assist families to access local facilities and primary and infant school

Supporting Children's Physical and Emotional Wellbeing

- Layer Preschool has a safe, secure and happy environment that is inclusive to all families and their children and is a provision that is suitable for all children to flourish.
- We promote children's Personal, Social and Emotional development by extending their own experiences to continue building confidence and self-esteem.
- The preschool offers a free-flow environment which gives children the opportunity to learn in their preferred environment.
- We offer a visual time table to introduce the daily routine, what is going to happen next and to support and encourage children to make their own choices.
- We nurture co-operative play between all children helping them to understand, value and respect feelings, opinions and ideas.
- The preschool maintains a flexible approach and can adapt our provision to accommodate any individual needs or health issues.

Helping with Transitions

- Before children start at Layer Preschool, we invite parents and their child/ren to visit. This gives both parents and child/ren an opportunity to become familiar with the environment and meet with your allocated key person and the SENCo.
- We work closely with parents to help settle their child/ren into the preschool environment and will accommodate parents staying with their child/ren for as long as the child/ren needs.
- We ask parents to share as much information as possible and from any other professionals that may be involved with your child so that we can plan adequate support to support their individual needs.
- Layer Preschool works in partnership with local infant and primary schools. Local school teachers are invited into preschool to discuss individual developmental needs and learning styles to support transitions from preschool onto primary and infant schools. Regular visits are arranged to give children opportunities to become familiar with their new learning environment.

How accessible is the environment?

- Layer Preschool is welcome to families and children who speak English as an additional language. The SENCo will gain resources and interpretations to support the family and child/ren's first spoken language.

- All staff members have attended 'in-house' basic Makaton signing training and use basic signing throughout each session to support language and communication skills.
- Visual aids are used to support all children's daily learning and development and to enhance communication and reduce frustration.
- The preschool is situated on one level providing access to an indoor and outdoor environment.
- Layer Preschool is an Autism friendly setting and has completed 'Good Beginnings' training.