



Lydlynch Pre-School

**High-quality, affordable
and inclusive early years
education for children
aged two to five**



Welcome from the Manager

On behalf of the staff here at Lydlynch Pre-School I would like to warmly welcome you to our early years learning community.

Starting Pre-School is an important milestone that enables children to establish the foundations for a smooth transition to school.

At Lydlynch Pre-School we use a 'key carer' approach, which means staff members support the learning and development of those identified as their 'key children'.

This approach is implemented through detailed planning and observations of individual children. All planning reflects the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum to ensure that age and stage-appropriate activities and experiences are always available.

We value the input of parents/guardians throughout early years education. After all, you are your child's primary educator. That is why we welcome you to participate in play and be involved in learning. We would also welcome you to join our directorship of the Pre-School.

Thank you for reading. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your child or children.

Kind regards,

Sam Churn
Manager

Nichola Green
Deputy Manager



Ofsted inspections

We are inspected regularly by Ofsted, and during our last inspection in November 2016 we were rated 'GOOD' overall, with 'OUTSTANDING' personal development, behaviour and welfare ratings. You can view our full Ofsted report by visiting www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk



Staff provide an interesting and varied range of activities based on children's individual interests. Children make good progress in their learning and development.

Ofsted 2016



Our early years education outlook

At Lydlynch Pre-School we provide a welcoming, friendly, safe and secure environment that helps children develop social skills, independence and a positive self-image.

Our qualified and experienced team embraces the view that each child is a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of social, physical and intellectual development.

We believe in encouraging children to think for themselves, make decisions, work towards solutions, and express ideas and feelings. Importantly, your child will be free to create a unique curriculum based on their interests.

We want to work with you closely to serve the best interests of your child. Our experience has shown that through this synergy we can achieve our shared goals.

Children are motivated and eager learners who enthusiastically participate in activities. Staff are enthusiastic, interested and provide children with constant praise and encouragement. They use a variety of helpful methods to support all children's communication and language skills. **Ofsted 2016**

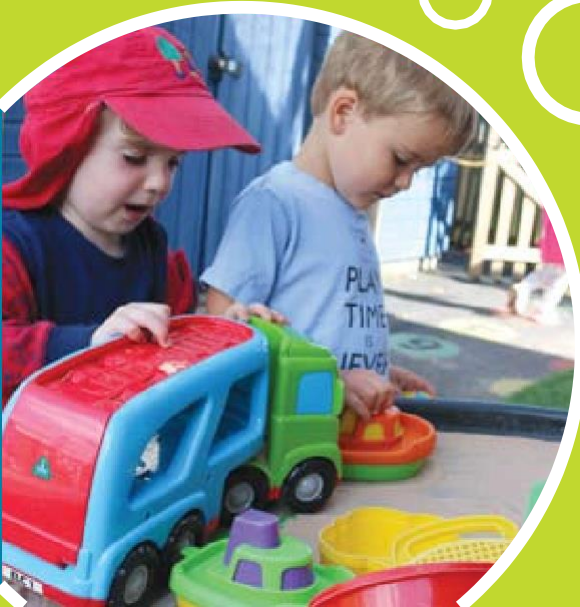
About us

Our Pre-School opened in September 2005 at Lydlynch Infant School in Totton, and since then has gone from strength-to-strength.

We are a directorship-run charitable organisation that was formed to provide first-class care and early years education in line with the government's Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Within the Pre-School there is a large, well-equipped playroom with wheelchair access to a safe-surface playground. Children also have access to a large Victorian walled garden, which is covered with artificial grass.

Our fully heated and well-lit Log Cabin serves as a quiet learning area where children can gather their thoughts. In addition, we have a Mud Kitchen where children can enjoy some outdoor, messy play. We are currently fundraising for a den-building area to enhance the overall learning experience.



The curriculum

Children follow a curriculum that accords with the government's Early Years Foundation Stage documents. These documents are available to all parents/guardians on request.

We treat all children as individuals and work with them to find out their likes and dislikes, interests at home and favourite toys, among other things... This helps us plan suitable activities for them.

We also host visits from nurses, doctors, lifeguards, librarians, fire officers, and representatives of other outside agencies to offer diverse learning opportunities. These professionals make time to talk to children about important things like staying safe and behaving sensibly.

Your child

We recognise that every child is a unique learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. Our commitment to learning is focused on development, inclusion, safety, health and wellbeing.

Positive relationships

Our staff work hard to forge positive relationships with children that aid the learning experience. They also seek positive relationships with parents/guardians based on mutual respect and shared objectives.

Enabling environments

We know the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending our children's learning and development. Therefore, we observe, assess and plan the best ways to support each child within the learning environment. We also promote transition, continuity and multi-agency working.

Ongoing commitments

We are committed to providing the highest quality care and education, as well as meeting the expectations of parents/guardians.

Our staff will continue to gather feedback from parents/guardians and immediately address any issues raised. They will also continue to apply rigorous standards and aim to maintain or exceed our current Ofsted rating of 'GOOD'.

Another important aim is to maintain a low turnover of staff to ensure your child benefits from a cohesive team that works for the common good.



Pre-School policies

We have a comprehensive range of policies in place, details of which are available on request. These are reviewed annually by the team, Directors and parents/guardians.

The Pre-School team

We have a team of highly qualified staff and promote team training and personal development opportunities to them at every stage of their careers. Critically, we work to ensure that favourable child-to-staff ratios are maintained.

“ Staff are very effectively deployed. Children form exceptionally strong relationships with staff and other children. They behave extremely well and develop very high levels of self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities.

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Available sessions

We offer full or sessional day care that includes a lunchtime session for which children either bring their own 'healthy lunchbox' or order a hot meal from the school kitchen at a cost of £3.00.

A jug of water and cups are always available for children to help themselves during sessions. They are encouraged to drink this throughout the day.

We also offer a healthy snack during sessions, which helps children learn about healthy choices while participating in organising and sharing the food.

Whole milk is provided during each session, and we offer goats, skimmed or soya milk for those with intolerances.

Furthermore, we run Breakfast Club for early risers that enables learners to enjoy cereal and toast before participating in stimulating activities. The Breakfast Club is open to both Pre-School children and those attending Lydlynch Infant School.



Typical daily routine

We have established a well-defined daily routine to help ensure an efficient and safe teaching and learning structure.

To maintain this, we do the following:

- Provide a range of stimulating activities.
- Focus on physical and mental development.
- Promote good behaviour.
- Serve healthy snacks in the morning and afternoon.
- Promote hygiene-related routines including handwashing.
- Encourage a post-lunch quiet period.
- Assist children in tidying before leaving.

Session time	Activity
8am - 9am	Breakfast Club
9am - 11.30am	Collective group time. Free-flow play between indoors and outdoors. Focused topic-related activities. Snack time. Story time before lunch.
11.30am -12.45pm	Lunch
12.45pm - 3.10pm	Collective group time. Free-flow play between indoors and outdoors. Focused topic-related activities. Snack time. Story/rhyme time.
3.15pm	Home time

Frequently asked questions

When is a child eligible for a free place?

All children become eligible for the free entitlement at the start of the funding period that follows their third birthday. However, some two-year-olds are also eligible for funding if they meet the criteria. To find out more, please visit www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs

Does my child have to be toilet trained before starting pre-school?

No. We will encourage your child to make regular visits to the toilet in addition to their usual changing routine. Staff will always assist your child. However, we encourage all children to develop independence in this area. Please help us by sending your child to us in clothes that are easy to pull up and down, and by dressing them in footwear that is easy to get on and off.

If my child stays for lunch, do I need to provide this?

Yes. Please note, we promote healthy eating and ask that you provide a well-balanced meal. We can also heat meals on request. You can also purchase a hot meal in advance which is made by Lydlynch Infant School kitchen. Children get to choose either a red (meat option) or blue (meat-free option). Menus are available at www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/primaryschools/menu and can be ordered and paid for in advance. Please ask a member of the team for an order form.

If my child is upset, can I stay to settle them?

If you wish to stay to settle your child, we welcome this. Some parents/guardians prefer to drop off and leave straight away to minimise transition time.

Who is my child's Key Carer?

You will be introduced to your child's Key Carer during your settling-in visits. You will also find a team notice board to the right of the Pre-School when entering from our playground. This shows the team present at the Pre-School as well as their qualifications and Key Groups.

Does my child need a uniform?

We do have uniform with the Lydlynch logo. This can be purchased from our suppliers at myclothing.com/lydlynch-pre-school/24081.school. Children don't have to wear uniform, but due to the unpredictability of our weather please make sure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing such as a jacket, wellington boots, hats and sun cream etc. Please note that if a child does not have the correct outdoor clothing or protection from the weather, this may result in them being unable to participate in all outdoor activities.

My child has medication, can you administer?

Yes. We have appropriately qualified staff for this. Please make sure all prescribed medicines are provided along with full instructions.

How do I pay for my childcare services?

We will send you an invoice for the term and split the amount into two payments. You can then decide how and when you will pay the bill. For example, you can pay all in one go, monthly, weekly, or half termly, by cash, cheque or BACS.

Directorship: "We need you..."

Did you know? You could become a Lydlynch Pre-School Director and help us do even more for our children.

Our board meets every month to discuss the running of the Pre-School, as well as fundraising initiatives to help boost our learning provision.

Joining the directorship is also an ideal way to meet new people and become more involved in your community.

Without the help and support of our Directors we simply could not have achieved what we have done so far...

To discover more about becoming a Director please contact Claire Thompson or Samantha Churn, or email

lydlynchpredirectors@gmail.com

Fundraising initiatives

Each year we run a series of fundraising events to help support our children's learning. This results in new learning opportunities, new equipment and improved learning and development. You can find out more about these events and how to get involved by speaking to a member of the team.

Lydlynch Pre-School,
Lydlynch Infant School,
Lydlynch Road,
Totton,
Hampshire,
SO40 3DW.

 **023 8086 3176**

 **enquiries@lydlynchpreschool.co.uk**

 **LydlynchPreSchool**



The manager and staff team have effective partnerships with other professionals. For example, they work closely with the speech and language therapists to plan support for individual children when needed.

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