



Panda Preschool Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

PROSPECTUS

June 2020



About Panda Preschool, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots.

Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots have been at the heart of Copmanthorpe village for nearly 40 years. We are a registered charity (number 1035584), run by a voluntary committee mainly made up of Panda parents and carers.

Panda Preschool is open Monday to Friday 9am until 2.30pm

Morning sessions are 9am till 12pm, lunch 12-12.30pm and afternoon sessions are 12.30 till 2.30pm. Early morning starts are available from 8.30am if required. Children attending the morning Panda sessions are welcome to join us for Lunch Club. This allows children to enjoy a social lunch with friends, and joins the Afternoon sessions, if required to make a longer day.

Tiny Tots met on Mondays and Wednesday from 9.15-11.15 at the Methodist Church Hall. No bookings necessary. Just drop in all parents and carers welcome.

Vision Statement

At Pandas we believe every child, family and member of staff matters. We strive to work in partnership, through a culture of listening, to enable everyone to achieve their true potential. We are building a successful learning community which celebrates diversity. We will be welcoming, friendly, respectful, thoughtful, and supportive in providing a safe place where we can grow and learn together.

Mission Statement

In line with Ofsted requirements, we also adopt the following statement:

At Pandas we actively promote the universal values of democracy, the rules of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs.

We believe, for very young children this means learning right from wrong, learning to take turns and share: and challenging negative views and stereotypes.

Panda Preschool is a place where children are encouraged to develop a positive sense of themselves. Where children are encouraged to build close and lasting relationships. A place where children are helped to feel secure through the development of safe boundaries.

Panda Preschool is a place where parents are valued and encouraged to take an active role in their children's learning. It is a place where the children are at the centre of all activities and they are supported and encouraged to make their own choices. Where they are unique and are encouraged to develop to their full potential and freely engage in different experiences, enthusiastically, messily, and spontaneously. A place where we can all create together.

Pandas Preschool is a place where children are encouraged to explore indoors and outdoors. Gain the confidence to solve their own problems, set their own challenges and manage their own risks.



Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts **Mondays and Wednesdays.**



We start your journey with Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts, our stay and play session for babies and toddlers. It offers a creative environment, with painting, gluing, model-making and music.

At this session you also have the opportunity to weigh your baby using our self-weigh baby scales – don't forget your red book!

“Bumps” are also welcome to these sessions.

Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts are Drop-in sessions – Pay on the day (cash or card)
9.15-11.15 am – Copmanthorpe Methodist Church Hall.
No need to register beforehand!

Drinks and biscuits provided for parents/carers, healthy snacks provided for children.

Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts is seen as a next step towards moving on to Panda Preschool Playgroup.



Panda Preschool **Monday to Friday**



At Panda Playgroup we use 'In The Moment' planning. This means we follow each child's interests and plan our activities around them, to further their development and make sure they reach each new stage of development and learning with confidence.

Children are encouraged to pursue their own interests through free play.

We believe it is essential for young children to have free access to outdoor play as an integral part of their time with us. It builds their muscles and it builds their minds. The outdoors is open every day for the children and they can choose freely when to take their play and learning outside. We expect the children to go out in all weathers. We have waterproof clothing and spare wellies to help the children stay warm and dry when it is wet. We provide sunhats, sun cream and encourage children to wear long sleeved tops when it is hot. The sun, wind, snow, and rain provide rich experiences to support children's understanding of their world.

We have close links with Copmanthorpe Primary School, and some Panda sessions are used to visit the school ahead of children starting in September.

Panda Preschool

Early Years Foundation Stage

The EYFS is the stage of children's development from birth to the end of reception year in school. The EYFS Framework describes how all Early Years Providers should work with families to support and guide their children's learning and development. It also describes how children can be safe and cared for, to ensure they reach their highest potential.

All our team have received training on the EYFS and make use of the valuable resources and guidance that it provides.

"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 and carers." (EYFS 2012)

Children are encouraged to pursue their own interests through free play, as well as taking part in structured group activities such as story and song time.

Our indoor and outdoor activities include:

- Messy play e.g. painting, sticking, play dough, baking, sand and water play.
- Small world play e.g. Bob the Builder, Happy Land, Fireman Sam, People of the world, cars and garage, trains, animals, dinosaurs etc
- Construction e.g. Lego, Duplo, big builder.
- Music, singing and dancing, Story time,
- ICT, Jigsaws, Role play.
- Outdoor play i.e. bikes and scooters, climbing and balancing.
- Plus much more.

Curriculum

- The curriculum is a general term for everything we want the children to learn about. It is also the way we foster and encourage children to develop their potential.
- We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance (2017) which looks at the overall development of the children. There are 3 characteristics of effective learning which are:
 - **Playing and exploring** - *children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'*
 - **Active learning** - *children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulty, and enjoy achievements*
 - **Creating and thinking critically** - *children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things*
- There are 7 identified areas of learning that shape the early education framework. All these are important and are interconnected and divided into 2 levels - the prime areas and the specific areas
- At Pandas we believe that like adults, children learn best when they are self-motivated and interested. For young children, play is their work.

Trips and visits

- With parents'/carers' help, we arrange a number of trips each term to different places of interest in and around the village. This gives children a greater understanding of the world around them. Recently we have been exploring the Rec, browsed books in the library, as well as a day trip to the National Railway Museum

Key person

When your child starts at the playgroup, he or she will be allocated a key person. Your child's key person is responsible for cooperating closely with you to provide the best learning outcomes for your child, communicating your child's progress with you, and updating their learning journal.

Each child has a learning journal that is used to record their interests and development, containing photos, comments and some of their artwork. If your child has particular learning needs or a disability, we will discuss with you how to best meet their requirements.

Our staff have continued specialist training to ensure that each child's needs are met. If staff discover any areas of development that need additional support, they have been trained to work with the parents/carers to fully support and enhance the child's progress and development.

Our Staff Team

Panda Playgroup has an exemplary team of qualified, dedicated staff, all of whom have received training in First Aid, Food Hygiene and Safeguarding Children, which they update every three years. In addition, they carry out annual training to meet statutory requirements for delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage to a high standard.

Here's a bit more about our team:

Lynne Selby BA (hons) Early Years Teacher. Playgroup Leader and SENCO

I achieved Early Years Teacher Status in July 2015. This followed a BA (Hons) in Educational Leadership- Children's Workforce in 2014.

"I became Panda Playgroup Leader in January 2017 starting my career in childcare in 2000. First as a childminder. Moving onto Preschools as my children moved on to school. I have done various courses in childcare including Cache Level 3 in childminding practice, NVQ in Children's care, Foundation Degree completed in 2013 followed by BA and EYTS."

"I have done a wide range of courses in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including Speech and Language, Autism, Disability Awareness, Portage, Sensory Impairment and as well as Forest Schools for all."

I enjoy helping the children learn new things and love to celebrate their achievements. I am dedicated to giving the children in my care the best possible outcome. I continue my own professional development to keep up to date with the latest learning and development."

As the playgroup leader I am responsible for supporting the staff team in their development and learning. As a team we deliver a high-quality provision where the children are at the heart of everything we do."

Rosie Walker BA Hons (Deputy Manager)

"I began working in childcare in 2004, when I studied a BTEC national diploma in early years. From this I continued working as a nanny and then in day nurseries with children aged 0-5. Alongside this I completed a Foundation degree."

I took a break from studying after having my first child, followed closely by my second in 2015. I graduated in 2018 with a first-class BA hons in Educational Leadership."

I thoroughly love working with children and parents to ensure their children have the best possible start in their journey through preschool."

In my spare time I love nothing more than family days with my partner and children" .

Anna Brooke Level 3 Early Years Practitioner (Acting Deputy)

"I am a mum to Oliver (12) and Erin (8). I am Level 3 qualified and previously worked at Woodthorpe Playgroup. In my Spare time I enjoy reading and football (watching)

Bethan Frankland Level 3 Early Years Practitioner

"I am 23 years old and studying a master's degree in Psychology of child and adolescent development.

I like Knitting, reading, and baking when I am not studying. I am very excited to spend time with the little Pandas and help them play and explore. I have worked with children for six years and love to watch them grow and mature into their own individual personalities.

Katie Prole, Level 2 Practitioner

"I am currently studying for my level 3 and have experience volunteering in a number of settings.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends"

Lesley Wright, Preschool helper.

"I love being with the children at Panda Preschool. Previously I worked at Woodthorpe School for 8 years in a variety of roles, walking bus, M.S.A and after school care.

I have two children, Georgia, 17 and Michael 13, and two loopy dogs and I work at Pandas and Sticky Mitts as relief, as and when needed."

Dani Brown Early Years Level 3 Practitioner

I am level 3 qualified and have over 10 year's childcare experience. I am Mum to Gracie (3) who has also enjoyed time at Pandas.

I have worked at the preschool and also really enjoyed being the Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts Leader

In my spare time I enjoy walks with Gracie and catching up with friends and family."

Dani is currently on Maternity leave.

Our Committee

Panda Playgroup is run by a management committee of parents and carers who take care of all the bits you don't see, such as paying rent and wages, funding and admissions, press, marketing, and fundraising activities.

Volunteering as a member of the committee is a challenging task, but one that is rewarding in so many ways. Our volunteers gain valuable experience of all aspects of running a charity, as well as the social side of being part of a team.

If you think you could be a key part of running our great playgroup, or you could offer a few hours to help us out, then please get in touch.

The committee meets half termly. All parents/carers are welcome to attend

Our Annual AGM is held in October

Fundraising

Panda Playgroup is a community playgroup. We keep our fees as low as we can, to give everyone the chance to access affordable childcare. That means we have to work really hard at fundraising to cover our costs. Some of the ways we do this are:

- **Coffee mornings.** These give parents, carers, and staff a chance to socialise and raise money for the playgroup. Lots of yummy cakes, crafts, face painting and stalls.
- **Professional photo sittings.** Every year (in time for Christmas), we invite parents to have professional photos taken of their family/children/child. This hugely popular event is fantastic value for money and a percentage of the cost goes towards the running costs of Panda Playgroup
- **Regular events such as our Nativity, Feb Fest and Copmanthorpe Carnival.** We regularly ask for donations for these events and for support on the day setting up, running the stall, clearing up etc. We also rely on families attending these events to have some fun while supporting Panda Playgroup.
- **One-off events such as Wine or Beer tasting, Pamper evenings, Italian Nights.** Please come along to any such events we organise to have some fun, and make new friends while supporting Panda Playgroup
- **EasyFundraising.org.uk** www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stickypandas. The online shopping directory features over 2400 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Debenhams, M&S and many more. A commission is given to Panda Playgroup each time you shop with these retailers via the link. Please make this your homepage. It costs you no more than a couple of extra seconds each time you shop online, and Panda Playgroup will receive a percentage of your purchase. If you install the toolbar to your web browser, it will remind you each time you visit one of the partner sites.

How can you help?

We welcome any help we can get from parents/carers. Some of the ways in which you can make a difference are:

- Join the committee. We always appreciate the help and input of parents/carers and grandparents whether in one of the specific roles or as a general committee member.
- Give a little of your time to help run our events. This could be running a stall, tidying up the Hall after an event or helping with the preparation for one of our events. All help is much appreciated.
- Come along to our committee meetings. You will receive a warm welcome and your input into the running of Panda Playgroup will be much appreciated.
- Support fundraising by attending our events and spreading the word.
- Help identify grant sources, collect tombola/raffle prizes.

Important information for parents

We want you to help us understand more about your child and consider the wellbeing of others. Therefore, we ask the following:

- You are welcome to bring your child along and stay with them for a session or two before they start. We do not charge for these settling visits.
- Be prepared to stay with your child on the first day, and for as many sessions as it takes for your child to feel confident enough to be left on his/her own.
- Let us know if your child has any known allergies or dietary requirements.
- If your child experiences vomiting or diarrhoea, please wait until 48 hours after the last attack before your child returns to playgroup. This will help to minimise the risk of any infection spreading.
- For security, inform the playgroup leader if anyone else will be collecting your child.
- Discourage your child from bringing their own toys in to playgroup, as they can easily be broken or mislaid. Soft toy comforters, however, are the exception.
- Send your child to playgroup in practical clothing that you don't mind getting messy. As we provide activities involving paint, glue, etc. we advise that you don't send your child to playgroup in brand new clothes. Children also need to have suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor play. All items should be clearly marked with the child's name.
- Ensure that no valuables are brought into the playgroup, as we cannot accept liability for loss or damage of any personal property.
- Upon arrival your child must only be handed over to a recognised member of playgroup staff.
- At the end of a playgroup session, children will not be released to any person other than a known parent/carer unless we have been previously notified.

Policies and Procedures

A copy of all our policies and procedures can be found on the playgroup signing-in table in Howell Hall or downloaded from www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk.

Parking

Panda Playgroup is run from rented premises and, unfortunately, we do not have our own car park. However, there is ample street parking and we ask that you park with consideration for other people using the playgroup, and also for the local residents.

For safety we advise parking on the side road as entry is by the back gate.

Panda Playgroup accepts no responsibility for injury, damage or loss to persons, vehicle or property.

Session times

Panda Preschool is open Monday to Friday in school Term Time

Early drop off is available from 8:30

Sessions: Morning 9 – 12

Lunch 12-12:30

Afternoon 12:30-2:30

Fees and charges

- Parents are billed half termly. Please ask for current Fees
- We ask for a half termly donation to cover the cost of snacks and other consumables
- 15 hours of funded childcare is available the term following your child's third birthday.
- We accept government funding for 2, 3- and 4-Year olds Please ask for more details.
- Working parents of children aged 3 or 4 years old may be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare per week during term time

Notice of leaving/changing sessions/additional sessions

If you would like to increase or reduce your child's regular sessions please contact Panda Manager pandapreschoolmanager@outlook.com or fill in a change to sessions form at the setting.

The maximum number of children we can legally register per session is 24 but we prefer to keep our groups much smaller than this.

We ask parents to register in advance and operate a waiting list when sessions are full.

We require one half-term's written notice if you intend to withdraw your child from the playgroup.

Come and meet us

If you would like to arrange a visit to Panda Playgroup, we will be happy to show you around. To arrange a time to visit either call or email pandapreschoolmanager@outlook.com or use the contact form on our website (www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk)

Further information

Our website can be found at www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk and has up-to-date information on sessions, fees, policies fundraising events, information for parents and newsletter.

You can find us on Facebook - [#Pandascopmanthorpe](https://www.facebook.com/Pandascopmanthorpe)

Contact details

Playgroup Manager: pandapreschoolmanager@outlook.com

or telephone 07716653801 (8.30-2.40 in session time)

General information from the Committee pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk