

Panda Preschool
Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots
PROSPECTUS



Howell Hall, School Lane
Copmanthorpe YO23 3SQ
www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk

Some background information

Panda preschool has been providing for families in the village for 40 years. In the last four years we have been running the preschool in Howell Hall with Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots in the Methodist Church Hall.

Our different sessions provide local preschool children with an exciting journey of learning through play from birth to school.

Panda Playgroup is a registered Charity (number 1035584) run by a voluntary committee made up of Panda parents and volunteer affiliated members.

Parents or guardians automatically hold a Family Membership with the charity while their children are attending any of the sessions that are run by the provision. This offers them the opportunity to participate and influence the care being provided for their child.

Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

Our Panda journey starts with Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. These Stay and Play sessions are run on a Monday morning in the Methodist Hall with a second session on a Wednesday when there is enough interest.

Our aim is to help parents/carers find somewhere safe and welcoming to come and have fun with their children, meet other adults and get a taste of what Panda preschool has to offer. An Early Years Qualified member of staff welcomes parents/carers and babies/toddlers, and children up to school age. We provide a stimulating environment with carpet time, messy play, snacks, and someone to chat to over a coffee. We also offer scales for you to weigh your baby. At the end of the session, we tidy up before enjoying a group song time (Yes. We do like everyone to sing!).

Times are 9.45 till 11.15am. Please get in touch if you want to register at pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

Panda Preschool

When your child reaches the age of two, they are old enough to join our pre-school in Howell Hall. We are registered with OFSTED. Please check out our last report on our website. Our registration number is EY501461. We have close links with Copmanthorpe Primary School and some Panda sessions are used to visit the school and the forest school area, ahead of the children starting school.

Our sessions run during term time, Monday to Friday (9am-2.30pm).

Morning session 9am till 12pm

Lunch break 12pm till 12.30pm

Afternoon session 12.30pm till 2.30pm

Early start is available on request from 8.30am

Children are encouraged to pursue their own interests through play, as well as taking part in more structured group activities such as story/singing time, yoga, and exercise.



Key Person

When your child starts at Panda Preschool, they will be allocated a key person. Your child's key person is responsible for working closely with you to provide the best learning outcomes for your child, communicating with you about your child's progress and keeping their learning journal up to date. Each child has a learning journal that their key person uses to record their time at Pandas, their interests and development, photos, and artwork.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was updated and saw a number of changes in September 2021. The staff have taken these on board, and we have made some adjustments to the way we plan for your children and how we observe and assess each child's progress.

What is the EYFS?

The EYFS is the statutory Early Years curriculum. This is mandatory for all schools, pre-school settings and childminders to follow from birth up to the end of reception. The EYFS sets out our legal obligations regarding things like adult:child ratios, suitable people, safeguarding and welfare, staff qualifications, and learning and development.

What's different?

- Most of the changes are regarding Learning and Development, with some minor adjustments to Safeguarding and Welfare.
- Fundamentally, what we teach children is very similar to that taught prior to the changes, albeit worded differently.
- The new framework also specifically talks about the pressures on Early Years staff and wants to remove unnecessary paperwork requirements which result in time spent away from the children. It says the following: *"Assessment should not entail prolonged breaks from interaction with children, nor require excessive paperwork. When assessing whether an individual child is at the expected level of development, practitioners should draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgement and should not be required to prove this through collection of physical evidence."* – EYFS 2021

Changes to Safeguarding and Welfare

- The changes to Safeguarding and Welfare are largely wording based. For example, *"Local Safeguarding Children's Board"* has been changed to *"Local Safeguarding Partners"* to reflect some recent change in structure.
- A requirement for promoting the good oral health of children has been added.
- A specific requirement for promoting staff and children's online safety has been added. This reflects the technological advances we have made since the EYFS was last reformed in 2012.



Changes to Learning and Development – Educational Programmes

- The Educational Programmes lead up to the Early Learning Goals – a description of what we want children to know by the end of Reception.
- These are divided in to 7 areas of learning. The ‘Prime’ areas form the basis for all learning, and the ‘Specific’ areas build on those skills and broaden children’s understanding, experiences, and knowledge. In pre-school, we always focus on the Prime areas in the first instance as they really do form the foundation for everything else.

Please be aware that these headings are those of the Early Learning Goals for the end of Reception.

In pre-school, we focus on learning the early skills that set children up to achieve these. For example, we build our gross and fine motor skills, mark making, excitement for learning, conversation skill, interest in books and print, strong sense of self and so on which eventually lead to mastery of reading, writing and all the other fantastic things your child will learn as they grow and develop. For more information, please ask a member of staff.

Trips and visits

We like to arrange several trips each term, some local around the village and some further afield. During the last year and half, we have been unable to go far due to COVID although we did manage to visit the National Railway Museum and York Minster at the end of the summer term. We are planning to continue to explore the village, by visiting the library, local playgroups, forest area at school, local park and the Rec. This year we are hoping to go to Askham Bog and Askham Brian wildlife centre in addition to the Railway Museum. We are also hoping to welcome back visitors to the Preschool, including nurses, dentists and even animals.

Events

Panda Preschool is at the heart of the Copmanthorpe community. Here are some of the events we are involved with:

May Day Fair and Copmanthorpe Carnival

Each year Panda Preschool has a stall at both events. We also work in partnership with other childcare providers in the village and together, all the children sing on stage to open the hugely popular music event at the Carnival.

Christmas Nativity/End of year celebration.

Each year, the children put on a nativity play for their parents to watch. There is usually a raffle and party food for the children. Refreshments are available for the parents and our big yearly raffle is celebrated. This is a great time to socialise with other parents and carers. We also have an end of year celebration in July where we say goodbye to all the little Pandas moving on to big school.



Meet 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. Preschool Manager 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. I started 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 needs including Speech and Language, Autism, Disability Awareness, Portage, Sensory Impairment, children's mental health and Forest Schools. I enjoy helping the children learn new things and love to celebrate their achievements. I am dedicated to give 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.

Being the preschool 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."

Marie Burke Level 3. Deputy Manager, Leader of Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots.

Hello, my name is Marie Burke. I have been working with children for over 20 years and have a Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Childhood Studies. I have worked in a school nursery then as a nanny for several families until I had my own little girl (who is now 7), then I started working in preschool settings. I have been at Panda's since May 2021. I love working with children, they are amazing, and I love how their little brains work. No two days are ever the same at preschool!! I particularly enjoy all things messy, being outside, reading stories and singing songs.

In my spare time, I love going camping with my family in our camper van and being outdoors! I love to help at Rainbows and sometimes I'm lucky enough to be an elf for Santa!

Jean Daubney Level 5 Early Years Practitioner.

Level 5 in Young Children's Learning & Development. I endeavour to keep up to date and continue my Early Years knowledge through online courses offered by Early Years providers. I started my Early Years career in 2001 by becoming a volunteer at my local playgroup and progressed over the next 20 years through many roles to manager. I most enjoy working 'hands on' with young children encouraging them to learn and develop through their play.

My interests are travel both home and abroad, looking after my 2 guinea pigs, reading, knitting and gardening.



Katie Prole Level 2 Early Years Practitioner.

I have a Level 2 in Child Development and am currently studying for my Level 3 in Childcare and Education. I have been part of Pandas since November 2019. Before that I volunteered in a primary school in Early Years.

In my free time, I like spending time with my family and friends.

The Panda Committee

Panda Playgroup is run by a management committee of parents, carers and affiliate volunteers who take care of all the bits you don't see, such as managing the budget, ensuring Ofsted, Safeguarding and other statutory requirements are met. This includes paying rent and wages; sending out invoices; managing Government Grant Funding; marketing; H.R; and planning fundraising activities.

Parental involvement has a positive effect on children's development. When parents participate in the management of the charity, they have the opportunity to shape the services it provides to best meet the needs of the children. For this reason, the Constitution requires that at least 60% of the individuals appointed to the Committee are Family Members at the time of their election or co-option.

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 do get in touch.

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 must work hard at fundraising to cover our costs. Some of the ways we do this are:

- **Grand Christmas Raffle** – We aim to get a variety of donated prizes including a Cash First Prize, Restaurant and Take Away vouchers, Family Days Out, as well as wine, chocolates etc.
- **Professional photo shoot.** 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, the May Day Fair 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 Preschool.



- **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.
- **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 us.
- **EasyFundraising.org.uk** – The online shopping directory. Go to:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stickypanda/>

This features over 2400 retailers including Amazon, eBay, 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 Preschool 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.

Also easysearch.org.uk | [Supplied by easyfundraising](#) | [Powered by Yahoo!](#) is a search engine equivalent of Google which donates half a penny for each search carried out.

How you can help

We encourage all parents and carers to become involved with Pandas so that we can develop and continue to provide the best for all the little ones.

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 Preschool will be much appreciated.
- Support fundraising by attending our events and spreading the word.
- Help identify grant sources, collect tombola/raffle prizes.
- Share your expertise.

Come and meet us

If you would like to arrange a visit to Panda Preschool, we will be happy to show you around. To arrange a time to visit either call Lynne on 07716 653801 or email pandapreschoolmanager@outlook.com or use the contact form on our website (www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk).



www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk

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:

- Bring your child along and stay with them for a session or two before they start. We do not charge for these settling visits.
- 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.
- 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, a sunhat or raincoat. All items should be clearly marked with the child's name.
- Ensure that no valuables are brought into the preschool, as we cannot accept liability for loss or damage of any personal property.
- 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.
- Upon arrival your child must only be handed over to a recognised member of staff. At the end of a session, children will not be released to any person other than a known parent/carer unless we have been previously notified.
- For security, inform the Manager if anyone else will be collecting your child, a password will be needed.

Parking

Panda Preschool 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 on the side road with consideration for other people using the preschool, and for the residents. Panda Preschool accepts no responsibility for injury, damage or loss to persons, vehicles, or property.

Notice of leaving/changing sessions/additional sessions

If you would like to increase or reduce your child's regular sessions, please contact the Panda Manager via pandapreschoolmanager@outlook.com or fill in a change to sessions form at the setting. The maximum number of children per session is 24, and we 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.



Policies and Procedures

A copy of all our policies and procedures can be found in the preschool at Howell Hall or downloaded from 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 – Click here [Panda Preschool playgroup](#).

Contact details

Playgroup Manager: pandapreschoolmanager@outlook.com
or telephone 07716653801 (8.30-2.40 in session time)

To Register or change days: Contact the Manager as above.

General information from the Committee pandaplaygroup@hotmail.com

