

PANDA PRESCHOOL, STICKY MITTS AND TINY TOTS PROSPECTUS 2023/2024.



PANDA PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP.

HOWELL HALL, School Lane, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3SQ.

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.

We are a registered Charity (number 1035584) run by a voluntary committee made up of Panda parents and volunteers.

Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots.

Our Panda journey starts with Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. These sessions are run on a Monday and Wednesday morning at the Methodist Hall. Each session costs for one adult and one child, pre-booked £3 or £4 drop in per session, extra children £1 each. Our aim is to help parents/carers find somewhere safe and welcoming to come and have fun with their children, meet others 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 crafts, messy play, healthy snack, 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, I'm afraid we all have to sing).

Times are 9.45 till 11.15am. Please get in touch if you want to register at pandaplayroup@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.

Morning session 9am till 12pm

Lunch break 12pm till 12.30pm

Afternoon session 12.30pm till 3pm

Early start is available on request from 8.30am

The cost is currently £5.50 per hour. Morning session (3 hours) £16.50 or full day (6 hours) £33. A small fee for consumables will be added each half term. Fees are payable every half term (including sickness/non-attendance). Once a place is confirmed, half a terms notice will be required to cancel a place due to funding issues.

All children are entitled to 15 hours funding from the term after they turn 3. We also offer 2-year funding and 30 hours extended funding for eligible working families. Please ask if you would like further information.

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.

Our Aims.

Panda Preschool is a registered charity supported by a group of committee members. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expect all staff, volunteers, and visitors to share this commitment.

We provide an inclusive setting with a member of staff, who is an accredited Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. She works closely with the children, parents, and outside agencies to enhance the child's play and experiences whilst in the preschool. We can offer 1-1 care if this is needed. The hall is wheelchair accessible.

Our focus is to ensure that every child that comes to Pandas, is offered equal opportunities to be able to grow within our setting as individuals. We aim to offer a welcoming and relaxed environment, that is safe and secure to help support the children to explore and discover our enriched play space as they grow, develop, and learn, both indoor and outdoor, that is both stimulating and encourages independence.

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. Parent partnership is very important to us, and we have a good open relationship with all our parents and carers. The mental health of all our children is important to us and we believe that if a child needs a cuddle, we will provide one. 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)

What is the EYFS?

The EYFS is the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage 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.

Curriculum Aims

In pre-school, we focus on learning the early skills that set children up to succeed. 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. For example, we visited the Yorkshire Museum at the end of the summer term 2023. We are planning to continue to explore the village, by visiting the library, local playgroups, forest area at school, local park, and the Rec. Future trips will include Askham Bog and Askham Brian wildlife centre in addition to trips further away. We are also hoping to welcome visitors to the Preschool, including nurses, dentist and even animals.

Events

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

Copmanthorpe Carnival

Each year, Panda Preschool has a stall at this event. 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/carers to watch. There is usually a raffle and party food for the children. Refreshments are available for the parents and tickets can be bought for our big annual raffle. 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. Our caring and dedicated staff are always approachable if you need a chat. 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 have just completed the Best Practice Special Educational Needs qualification.

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. My hobbies include Knitting, gardening, and going out.

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."

Jean Daubney Level 5. Deputy Manager, Leader of Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots.

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.

Vicki Prole Level 6 BA(Hons) Early Years Practitioner.

I have worked in the Early Years for 27 years and have experience in several settings, including day nurseries, creches, school nurseries and pre-schools. My previous role was preschool manager. I have qualifications in First aid, food hygiene, SENCO, disability awareness, allergy awareness and Epi pen training, safeguarding and autism. I have worked 1-1 in a school, supporting a child with Autism, which I found really rewarding. I love my job, educating our preschoolers and watching them learn and get excited about the world.

I have 2 children and enjoy nature and the outdoors. I love going to concerts.

Hannah Dungey.

I have a level 3 in Childcare and Education and have a certificate of first year university, where I studied early years and key stage 1 within a primary education course. I have experience in other nurseries within the village, as part of my training and came to Pandas as a child.

When I am not at preschool, I am likely at my second job, scooping ice-cream on the ice-cream boat on the river Ouse in York. In my spare time I like to socialise with friends, go bouldering, draw or sing in bands/choirs.

Rachel Forbes 1-1 carer.

Since January 2023, I've been working at Panda's as a 1-1 carer for a child with cerebral palsy. I've also just completed my paediatric first aid course.

I'm a mum of 2 girls aged 6 and 8, both girls also attended Panda's from the age of 2. In my spare time I enjoy baking, gardening, going for days out and in general spending time with my family.

Our committee

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

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.
- 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 and Copmanthorpe Carnival, where we open the carnival with all the other local childcare settings. 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.
- EasyFundraising.org.uk – The online shopping directory. Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stickypanda/> This features over 2400 retailers including 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 ppsmtt.easysearch.org.uk is a search engine equivalent of Google which donates half a pence 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. Come along to our committee meetings. You will receive a warm welcome
- 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.
- Support fundraising by attending our events and spreading the word.
- Help identify grant sources, collect tombola/raffle prizes.

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)

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.
- 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, vehicle, 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. Please see Pandas parent agreement for more information.

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