



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow (CIO)

Prospectus

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Ladybird Playgroup is a vibrant, fun setting for up to 24 children aged two and a half years to four and a half years of age. It has been running for nearly 25 years and operates in a modern purpose-built building in a rural setting, on the Thriplow Primary School site.

The playgroup is run by the management and voluntary parent committee, as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), and has a dedicated staff of appropriately qualified and experienced workers, employed in accordance with Cambridgeshire County Council and Young People Services.



Aims of Ladybird Playgroup

Our aim is to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

- a) Offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in all activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability;
- b) Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local areas;
- c) Instigating and adhering to and furthering the aims and objectives of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.





The Playgroup Setting

Ladybird Playgroup is a purpose-built building comprising of a front lobby, main playgroup room with a secure kitchen area for food preparation and a fridge freezer for food storage. There are accessible children's toilets and hand washing facilities within the en-suite. The building benefits from a first floor which has office space and a large room for occasional use on rainy days. The building was built in 2011 and is situated within the playground of Thriplow Church of England Primary School. There is a small purpose-built outdoor play area with a safe play surface which is fenced off and has a child resistant gate (this is always kept shut and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the security of children and staff within the premises at all times.) The children also have scheduled access to the new 'Wildspace' at the school, at the rear of the Playgroup building Two members of staff have completed the Health and Safety course and there is a designated Health and Safety Officer. All staff are paediatric first aid trained. Ladybird staff attend regular courses to ensure they hold the required levels of training in accordance with the most up to date policies and guidance.

Fees

The playgroup sessions (term time only) will be available where space permits from 9am to 3.15pm for a sessional fee, per child, of (current on 1st September 2017):

- 9am - 12pm = £12.00
- 12pm - 1pm = £4.00
- 1pm - 3.15pm = £9.00

Extra sessions can often be accommodated on a one-off basis and just need to be booked in, in advance.

From 8am to 8:50am, a daily breakfast club is provided for children four years and over to accommodate the onsite primary school children at a cost of £4.75 for the first child and £4.50 for any siblings per session.

The children need to have their sessions pre-booked half termly and fees must be paid in full when the relevant bills are issued. We work on a first come, first served, basis and parent or guardians have plenty of reminders and opportunities to access the sessions they require.



The Playgroup Day

Children will be brought to Ladybird Playgroup by their parent/guardian where they should be greeted by their key worker, who will help settle your child. At the end of the session, the child will be collected from a member of staff from inside the Ladybird Playgroup building.

During the day the children are registered and given a healthy snack and a choice of milk or water to drink. Adult led, structured activities as well as free play are initiated during the day, both inside and outside.

Some of the topics covered include date specific activities for example Chinese New Year, Diwali, Christmas etc or subject areas linked to children's interests such as pets, firefighters etc and are also inclusive for families eg Dad's week, Mother's Day Tea. Ladybird Playgroup is on the Thriplow Church of England Primary School site but it is not a direct feeder playgroup for the school. The playgroup welcomes children from all faiths and religions. It should be noted that a non-denominational prayer is said before snack time and the Playgroup performs a Christian based Nativity at Christmas.

Suitable topics are provided for the pre-school age children in their year before school, such as visits to the school, a structured PE Session (this proves VERY popular!) and weekly library book loans, to help prepare them for 'big school'. Pre-school French is also available (if there are enough children to make it affordable to run the class) for a small additional cost and this is a very fun session with lots of chat, songs and sometimes even cooking!

Ladybird Playgroup will provide Early Years Foundation Stage guided care and development for up to 24 children per session.

A variety of activities are offered covering the whole age range and stages of development. Opportunities for creative and challenging play and development are offered. These are planned with individual children as well as the whole group in mind to maximise their enjoyment and to further develop their social and behavioural skills as well as their academic progress.





Example Structure of a Ladybird Day

- 9am - welcome Ladybirds & carers and answer any parent queries (snacks and planned activities will be written for the parents to see on the board)
- Assist the children with self-registration.
- Children to sit in the book corner for a welcome to the day
- Children encouraged to self-select craft/play activities and can also play outside through the free-flow play. On Fridays (weather permitting) the children play in the Wildspace area at the rear of the Ladybird building.
- 10.30am is 'Tidy Up Time' to music. Then a short story, handwash and sit down for supervised drink and snack. Children can pour their own milk or water.
- Usually then an outdoor activity such as bats and balls or bikes out in the playground.
- 11.50am Tidy up ready for lunch (12:00 children go home). Children to go to toilet and wash hands before collecting their lunchboxes and water bottles.
- 1pm children leave/arrive and again children are encouraged to self-select a different range of activities.
- 2.45pm Tidy-up music followed by story/songs.
- 3-3.15pm children will be collected.



Parents

Parents are always welcome and actively encouraged to come along for a play session with their child, just speak to your key-worker to organise this. We also welcome parents who have an interesting vocation or hobby etc such as playing an instrument to attend a session and give a short talk or demonstration to the children.

We work closely with parents to find out about their child and respond to their likes and dislikes. We also keep parents informed of their child's development and progress.

Each child will have a key-worker who will get to know your child and be their main carer during their time at playgroup.

Early Years Funding

We accept 15 hours per week of free nursery funding from Central Government once your child is over 3 years old as well as funding for eligible 2 year olds. You will be provided with the relevant forms to make this claim. We also accept the extended 30 hours funding, if you are applicable (applications through gov.uk)

Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures for Ladybird Playgroup are developed and documented with the support of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and are updated on a rolling basis. These are readily available for all parents and staff to access. Parents and staff are expected to make themselves aware of the contents of these policies.



Results of the Parent Questionnaire*

- Do you and your child feel welcome, safe and supported at Ladybird?
100% Yes
- Do you feel the staff treat the children fairly and with respect?
100% Yes
- Does your child talk in a positive way about Ladybirds?
100% Yes
- Are you happy with the level of facilities and equipment available to your child, both indoors and outdoors and is there a good range of topics and activities?
100% Yes

"My son is very school-ready thanks to Ladybirds"

"Our keyworker supported my son very well when he was struggling at first and continues to tell me things about his day when I collect him. A good variety of interesting activities"

"I think it's a fun environment for the children where they learn about a variety of topics. The staff are very committed to the children. The facilities are excellent."

"It's a really intimate, caring and nurturing environment, with a wide range of wonderful activities to interest and enthuse the children"

"Our daughter absolutely loves it there hence why she is there nearly every day. Her confidence has gone through the roof since starting at Ladybirds. We all love it."

"It is a friendly, fun environment. The children are encouraged to be independent but also have as much support as they need. The pre-school day has really helped our daughter to progress with her literacy / phonics."

*19 families responded

If you need any more information or would like to request a booking form, please contact Ladybird Playgroup using the details on the front page. We look forward to getting to know you and your child and welcoming you very soon.