



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow

Prospectus

Ladybird Playgroup, School Lane,
Thriplow, Royston,
Herts, SG8 7RH

CIO Charity No: 1162435

Tel: 01763 208055

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Website: www.ladybird-playgroup.co.uk

Ladybird Playgroup is a vibrant and fun setting. We provide Early Years Foundation Stage guided care and development for up to 24 children, aged two and a half to four and a half years of age. It has been running for over 25 years and is now operating in a modern purpose built building in a rural setting, on the Thriplow Primary School site.

The playgroup is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) run by the management and voluntary parent Trustees. It 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.

A member of staff has 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.

Ladybird Management

Ladybird Playgroup is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is run by voluntary parent Trustees and a great team of qualified staff. The Committee is involved in planning and running fundraising events such as the Christmas Party; reviewing/agreeing the Playgroup's policies and procedures and much more besides.

Staff Members

Sharon McGinty - Lead Practitioner
Michelle Fairweather - Deputy Lead Practitioner
Alice McGinty - Early Years Practitioner
Georgie Sims - Early Years Practitioner

Committee Members

Jules White - Chair Person
Meghan Bonner - Treasurer
Kate Noble - Secretary
Sabrina Walston - Committee Member
Clare Joghee - Committee Member
Caroline Short - Committee Member
Elinor Schneider - Committee Member
Sarah Wells - Committee Member
Tracey Dervish - Committee Member



The Playgroup day

Children will be brought to Ladybird Playgroup by their parent/guardian where they should be greeted by a staff member. If your child is unsettled, we will try to ensure that your child's key worker is available to settle them. 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. Please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch, as we are not able to offer school meals at this time.

Adult led, structured activities as well as free play are initiated during the day, both inside and outside. We also have regular access to the Wild Space to allow the children to enjoy Forest School activities.

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.

Some of the topics covered include date specific activities. Examples include, Chinese New Year, Diwali and Christmas. In addition, subject areas linked to children's interests are covered, such as, pets, firefighters and vehicles. Topics which are inclusive for families are also covered, such as Dad's week and Mother's Day Tea.

Suitable activities are provided for the pre-school age children in their year before school, such as a structured PE session (this proves VERY popular!) and weekly library book loans, to help prepare them for 'big school'. We do 'stepping up' activities, which include watching school plays in the school hall and having story time in the 'Ants' reception classroom. Pre-school French is also available for a small additional cost and this is a very fun session with lots of chat, songs and sometimes even cooking!

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

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 the Playgroup performs a Christian based Nativity at Christmas.



Settling New Children In

Each child has a key worker, who will get to know them well and be their main carer at Playgroup. The key worker will ensure that your child is settling-in well and making lots of friends. We work closely with parents to find out about their child and respond to their likes and dislikes.

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, such as playing an instrument, to attend a session and give a short talk or demonstration to the children.

Children's Development

At Ladybird Playgroup, we work closely with parents to learn about the children and to provide updates on their development and progress. We use the Tapestry Online Journal to record the children's development. Parents are asked to sign up so that they can see what their child's key worker has written. Parents can also contribute their own observations.



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.

Optional uniform

Playgroup uniform is available to buy from our uniform supplier Total Clothing Shop. Second hand uniform can be bought from the Playgroup office. Please ask a member of staff for details.

Fees

The playgroup sessions (term time only) will be available where space permits from 9am to 3.15pm and are organised as follows:

- Morning Session 9am - 12pm
- Lunchtime Session 12pm - 1pm
- Afternoon Session 1pm - 3.15pm

Fee are charged per session. Please refer to the '[Admissions](#)' section of our website for an up to date breakdown of current fees.

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

From 8am to 9am, a daily breakfast club is provided for children four years and over to accommodate the onsite primary school children. Please refer to the '[Admissions](#)' section of our website for details of current fees.

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



Funding for Early Years Education

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to funding, from the term after their third birthday. Some 2 year old children are also eligible, beginning from the term after their second birthday. Please see the [Cambridgeshire County Council](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/free-30-hours-childcare-for-working-parents/) website for details. Application forms, to apply for funding, are available from the Playgroup office.

We offer up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week for working parents, who meet the Government's eligibility criteria. Please use the following link for more information:
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/free-30-hours-childcare-for-working-parents/>



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



Admissions - How to Apply

Please download the playgroup [Booking Form](#) (PDF) from www.ladybird-playgroup.co.uk, fill in your child's details and return the completed form to LadybirdPlaygroupThriplow@gmail.com or by post to:

Ladybird Playgroup
School Lane
Thriplow
Royston
Herts SG8 7RH

If you have any questions or queries about the Booking Form, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01763 208055.

If you need any more information 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.