



# Stondon Stompers Pre-School

# PROSPECTUS





## VISION

*Children at the heart of all we do*

## AIMS

### For your children to...

- Feel happy and included in a welcoming and friendly setting when taking their very first steps to independence
- Be inquisitive and curious about their world
- Develop a love of learning through play
- Feel valued and to value others
- Respect and care for others and the world around them
- Understand that everyone is an individual
- Be happy, confident and independent individuals who are ready for their next steps

### We do this by...

- Providing a nurturing, safe and friendly environment where children feel secure in their learning and development.
- Supporting children in their own learning, to encourage ownership and decision making so children feel valued and listened to.
- Supporting children in their emotional, physical and social development.
- Developing partnerships with parents and carers based on mutual respect and understanding.
- Ensuring a high quality of education covering the 7 areas of learning within the EYFS framework. <http://www.stondonstompers.co.uk/learning-environment.php>
- Providing stimulating and fun activities that encourage a love of learning across a range of abilities and interests.
- Employing a highly experienced and professional team committed to the continuous development of their own knowledge and skills.
- Having a highly effective leadership team, working in partnership with all stakeholders, to ensure Stompers continually improves.
- Using a variety of channels to ensure a continuous and open flow of communication between Stompers and parents/carers.



## ABOUT US

We are a term time Pre-School established since 1971 in the village of Lower Stondon. Our vision is to have "Children at the heart of all we do" and our emphasis is on learning through play, offering a high quality education under the EYFS framework, that gives the children the freedom to develop according to their individual needs.

We have a highly experienced and professional team of early years educators led by our Pre-School Manager who has over 15 years experience in early years. *"The well qualified staff team has a good knowledge and understanding of the early years foundation. They regularly reflect on and evaluate planned and spontaneous activities to ensure that they can continually promote opportunities for children to make good progress."* (Ofsted 2016)

As a registered charity, number 1044402, we are managed by a voluntary Management Committee committed to ensuring standards are maintained.

We are an Ofsted inspected group, registration number 219300 and a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

Stompers accepts children from 2½ years and is able to receive nursery education funding for 2 year olds, subject to parents meeting the Central Bedfordshire Council's criteria. As well as the universal funding for 3-4 year old children, we are able to offer the extended hours funding, again subject to parents meeting the HMRC criteria.

We actively promote inclusion, equality of opportunity, the valuing of diversity and British Values of; democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with difference faiths and beliefs. These values are embedded into our daily provision.

We support the children with their transition to full time education and have developed strong links with the lower schools. We support the children during their initial visits to their lower schools to help the children feel comfortable and reassured. During the Summer term the Reception teachers are invited into the setting to introduce themselves to the children and speak to each child's key person.



## THE CHILDREN

At Stondon Stompers the most important people are the children. We recognise that for any child to learn they must feel safe and valued and above all learning should be fun. The team interact with the children by encouraging, facilitating and supporting them whilst they learn through play, talk about their experiences and share their enjoyment with others. Children can explore, enjoy, achieve and progress to their fullest potential at their own pace through both child and adult initiated learning experiences, thus enabling the children to become more confident and independent.

Your child will be allocated a "key person", who will be your main point of contact within the setting; helps your child to become settled, happy and safe; is responsible for your child's care, development and learning; takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home.

*"Children's communication and language development are promoted well. Staff provide a range of activities that children enjoy and they introduce new vocabulary, as they model appropriate language and interact effectively."* (Ofsted 2016)

We shall promote equality of opportunities and positive attitudes to issues that arise both from a multi-cultural society and from observing those with disabilities, to help children interact well with other children and adults. Staff will be positive role models and supportive of children's individuality, culture and learning experiences.

This is achieved by providing challenging and stimulating experiences in line with our policies that take into account a child's individual needs, their interests and choices, as well as encouraging the involvement of parents and carers. *"Staff quickly recognise when planned activities can be adapted to present even more challenge for the most able children. This ensures that children's individual ability is challenged well."* (Ofsted 2016)

Planning is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), covering the seven areas of learning;

### **Prime Areas**

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

### **Specific Areas**

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding of the World

Expressive Art and Design



## PARENT/CARERS

We work closely with our parents/carers, recognising that parents are their child's first educator. The development of these partnerships promote parental involvement helping parents play an active part in this exciting phase of their child's life. *"Parents speak highly of the staff team. They praise them for their good communication and ongoing support."* (Ofsted 2016)

Parents are given secure access to their child's online learning journal (Tapestry), which will include observations, photographs, videos and EYFS assessments and characteristics of effective learning.

We provide opportunities for parents/carers and extended family members to visit Stompers through stay and play sessions, parent forums, as well as attending the Christmas Play, sports day and our graduation ceremony.

Due to our charity status Stondon Stompers is managed by volunteer parents, carers and members of the local community.

In using Stondon Stompers as your child's pre-school we kindly ask that you make a contribution to the pre-school in some way during your child's time with us. This could be achieved by joining the management committee, helping with fundraising events or by contributing your time to share your skills with our children, whether that be in session times or through upkeep of the facilities.

We would very much appreciate any contribution of time or skills that you are able to give. These contributions are vital to the continued success of the pre-school and without which we could not operate.

When asked recently why Stompers is the right choice for our parents/carers, these are some of the quotes received:

"My daughter always loves to come and can't wait to get here! Friendly approachable staff."

"Brilliant communication about my child at the door and via Tapestry."

"Children love it, friendly atmosphere, great staff!"

"Easy transition to school."

"He really enjoys the group activities and outdoor play."

"Friendly staff with great play areas and variety for my son."

"Children love it, friendly atmosphere, great staff!"

"Welcoming and lovely atmosphere."



# ADMISSIONS, SESSIONS AND FEES

## Admissions

It is our intention to make Stondon Stompers accessible to children and families from all sections of our community through open, fair and clearly communicated procedures. Our full Admissions Policy can be found on our website.

We take children from 2 1/2 years up to statutory school age, although children may leave to take up a 4+ position. We require a minimum of 2 sessions per week and on the same days each week.

We prioritise our waiting list as follows:

- 3 and 4 year old children, entitled to universal and extended government funding\*
- 2 year old children entitled to 2 year government funding\*
- Non funded children
- Consideration will be given for individual additional needs.

\* Government Nursery Education Funding is free at point of delivery. Universal free nursery education is available to all 3 and 4 year olds. If your child's third birthday falls between: 1 April and 31 August they qualify for funding from 1 September; 1 September to 31 December, they qualify for funding from 1 January; 1 January to 31 March, they qualify for funding from 1 April. Entitlement to extended government funding and 2 year funding is subject to the criteria set out by the Government.

Upon receipt of your enquiry, you will be contacted by our Administration Manager. You will be required to complete our waiting list form and once returned your child will be added to our waiting list and prioritise as above. Upon receipt we will make arrangements for you to visit and meet with the Pre-School Manager and the team. Your child will have an opportunity to join in the activities during your visit. Should you choose Stompers as your child's pre-school we will require you to complete all our registration documentation and we will then arrange for your child to have a settling in session whilst you meet with their key person and complete our baseline assessment and, if relevant, care plans should your child have any specific medical needs or allergies.

## Sessions

Stondon Stompers is open Monday to Friday, term time only. We provide morning, afternoon and all day sessions as follows:

- 8.05 am to 12.05 pm or
- 9.05 am to 12.05 pm
- 12.05 to 3.05 pm
- 9.05 am to 3.05 pm

## Session Fees

Our current unfunded session fees are as follows:

Morning or afternoon sessions	£12.45
All day sessions	£24.90

Full details regarding session fees can be found in our registration pack along with our terms and conditions.



## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)**

Stondon Stompers is an inclusive pre-school supporting children with SEND. We work in partnership with parent/carers and outside agencies; where appropriate, to ensure we can support children with specific additional needs.

Our Pre-School Manager is our designated SENDCo, and has undergone extensive training in identifying and supporting children who have specific additional needs. We are keen for staff to attend any training felt beneficial for the children. Staff have attended socio-communication training and speech and language training. If there is a child who needs specific support and training then we will do our best to ensure the staff team around the child are all trained in this area.

The staff team are diverse in their skills and knowledge. The Pre-School Manager and the key carers have all had experience of supporting children with a variety of Special Educational Needs.

Please see our SEND Local Offer, on our website, that gives more detailed information.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The safety and welfare of all our children in our care is paramount. All of our staff and management committee members have the relevant safeguarding and Prevent Duty training needed to identify and respond to any concerns regarding a child that may be at risk of harm.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Angela Bastable, Pre-School Manager, and our Deputy DSLs are Emma Daulman, our Deputy Manager and Kim Lear, Early Years Educators. Our committee Co-Chairpersons with safeguarding responsibility are Naomi Ford and Lucy Moore.

Our Safeguarding policy can be found on our website.

## **COMMUNICATION FRIENDLY AWARD**

In recognition of our continued and excellent support of children's speech, language and communication, Stompers have been awarded Central Bedfordshire Council's Communication Friendly Award. This was achieved by Stompers demonstrating that we embed communication and language in our daily practice and learning environment.



## **CONTACTS**

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