



Prospectus 2019



Play | Learn | Grow

United Reform chapel Hall, Chapel Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7SA

www.fowlmereplaygroup.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 1024798

Ofsted Registration Number 221791

Our Playgroup:

Fowlmere Playgroup has been part of the local community since 1977. We are an Ofsted registered provision that provides early years care for up to 20 children, aged from 2 years old to school age, per session/day.

Fowlmere playgroup is a registered charity and is run by a committee of volunteer parents that is always on the lookout for new members, fundraising ideas and helpers for our fundraising events. The members of our committee work alongside staff to ensure the children are receiving the best start to education outside of their home environment.

Feel free to discuss any ideas you have with our committee members.



Our mission

We aim to help each child develop independence, enjoy learning and reach their potential, in surroundings where they feel safe and happy. We offer an engaging, warm and caring environment that combines play and learning to support children's development.

Our staff are skilled, kind and committed, and enable us to cater to each child and family's unique needs on their journey through the Early Years Foundation Stage. By building positive relationships and encouraging friendship and respect, we aim to help children grow in confidence, value their differences and thrive.

Our committee:

Chair Person:	Claire Wise
Secretary:	Duncan Smith
Treasurer:	Rebecca Andrews
Members:	Jenny Bedrikov-Smith
	Natalya Butterworth
	Claire Lucas
	Esther Paterson

Our staff:

Manager:	Jasmine Redrup
Deputy Manager:	Verity Smith
Playgroup Assistant:	Currently recruiting

Our current sessions 2018/2019:

Monday:	9am – 12pm	Lunch Club 12pm – 1pm	1pm – 3.15pm
Tuesday:	9am – 12pm	Lunch Club 12pm – 1pm	
Thursday:	9am – 12pm	Lunch Club 12pm – 1pm	1pm – 3.15pm
Friday: (Rising fives only)	9am – 12pm		

Our rising five sessions on a Friday are great for children starting school the following September, as the structured sessions ensure that we help each child to develop the tools, confidence and independence needed to thrive within their new classroom. This also allows them to establish strong relationships with other children that will be in their year group throughout primary education.

Fowlmere Playgroup is in the catchment area for Fowlmere Primary School and rising five sessions later in the year are used to visit and explore their new school environment, meet their new class teacher and participate in variety of activities.

Fowlmere Playgroup follows school term dates and holidays, (including half terms and inset days) provided by Fowlmere Primary School.

Funding and Fees

All children are eligible for 15 hours a week of Early Years funding from the term after their third birthday. We also accept 2 year old funding and the new government scheme of 30 hours per week for working families. At present our fees are £4 per hour. All Fees must be paid within two weeks of a bill being issued and invoices are sent directly to parents each half term.

Our Approach: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of learning and development:

- Personal, social & emotional development
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design
- Physical development
- Communication and language
- Mathematics
- Literacy

The staff at Fowlmere Playgroup use these seven areas to plan your child's learning and activities to support their personal learning journey and individual needs. This curriculum, specifically designed for young children, helps to guide us in ensuring that the children learn by playing and exploring, being active, and shaping their activities through creative and critical thinking in both the indoor and outdoor environments that we provide.

Our Aims:

- To provide a secure, welcoming and caring environment where all children will feel happy, confident and encouraged to learn and develop.
- To promote the seven areas of Learning and Development (as defined by the Early Years Foundation Stage) through enquiry, problem solving and the use of all available resources both inside and outside.
- To provide opportunities for each child's physical development through a variety of activities and to help the children learn about healthy living. ·
- To provide an inclusive environment in which we will identify and cater for individual needs in order to enable and encourage our children to achieve their full potential through an individualised programme for each child. ·
- To promote confidence, self-discipline and motivation in our children to help them become independent and ready for school.
- To foster and develop each child's social and moral awareness, encouraging tolerance and sensitivity towards other people and the environment. ·
- To provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race, belief and ability.

Our Facilities

Fowlmere Playgroup is based in the United Reformed Church Chapel Hall. The day to day life of the playgroup takes place in the main Chapel hall; other facilities include both a separate kitchen and toilet area.

Our outside space is enclosed by a fence and has a secure access gate. The outside area consists of a paved area, ideal for bikes and trikes, and an area of grass for games and other activities.



Children with Special educational needs and/or disabilities:

As part of the setting's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take into account of any special needs a child may have and will closely work with parents to ensure that any additional resources/adaptations are made to our environment and that all staff have a good understanding of how to support the individual on a daily basis, prior to the child starting. Fowlmere Playgroup works to the requirements of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years, as updated in May 2015.

Our special educational needs coordinator is Jasmine Redrup

Safeguarding children

Our setting has a duty under the law to help safeguard children against suspected or actual 'significant harm' and ensures that all staff have undertaken child protection training. Our employment practices focus on ensuring children do not encounter abuse in our settings and we have fixed procedures for managing complaints or allegations against a member of staff. Our way of working with children and their parents ensures we are aware of any problems that may emerge and can offer support, including referral to appropriate agencies when necessary to help families in difficulty.

Snacks and Meals

Fowlmere Playgroup is one of a small minority of early years settings in the local area that has a physical and nutritional coordinator (PANCO) at the setting; this role directly supports children and their families to eat healthily and be active together to encourage healthier lifestyles long-term.

Our physical and nutritional coordinator is Jasmine Redrup

The setting provides the children with healthy and nutritious snack at each session and ensures that the snacks provided meet children's dietary requirements/allergies and are prepared by staff with relevant food hygiene training. Parents are asked to provide children with a packed lunch and are asked to follow our healthy packed lunch policy to ensure that good eating habits are encouraged in all meal times at the setting.

Uniform

Although Uniform is not compulsory, we do have a uniform available for purchase. We find many parents prefer to have their children in uniform as we often engage in messy play with materials that you may not wish for your child to get on good clothes. It also helps children to prepare for wearing uniform when going to school. Visit www.xxxxxx to view and purchase uniform.

Partnership with parents

Fowlmere Playgroup recognises that parents are the first and most important educators in their children's lives and strongly believe that for children to truly thrive and reach their full potential, that we must work together to support and nurture their learning and development. We will ensure that you are regularly updated upon your child's progress and also what they have been up to whilst in our care. Although attending Early Years environments is not compulsory for young children, we believe that good attendance patterns and support from parents to establish this, really contributes to children becoming ready and prepared for school.

Prior to your child starting at the setting we will welcome you and your child to a session where they can explore Playgroup's environment whilst parents complete various forms, such as our registration form, and discuss your preferred settling-in process. Your child will be allocated a key worker who will support your child to settle into daily routines at each of our sessions and will use information that parents have provided to support this process. Your child's key worker will be there to listen to any concerns you have, share achievements that your child has made whilst being with us as well as undertaking observations for your child's learning journal so that regular assessments and next steps can be shared with you so that learning can also be extended at home.

Information regarding term dates, termly topic focus and events, etc. will be sent to all parents. We have a private Facebook group for parents of children at Playgroup where this information is shared too. To continuously improve our provision and learning experiences, we regularly ask for feedback from parents so that we can ensure we are making your child's time at Fowlmere Playgroup the best that it can be.



What to bring to Playgroup

We will be outside during every session unless the weather is particularly bad or too hot. Children will need warm clothes, including hats, gloves and coats in the winter. In sunny weather, please pack a sun hat and apply sun cream before arrival.

We are happy to change nappies as necessary if your child has not yet been potty trained and are here to support you in this process.

Please provide your child with...

A bag of spare clothes in case of accidents, outdoor play or over enthusiastic water play. **Please ensure that all clothing is named.**

A pair of indoor soft shoes and also outdoor shoes preferably wellies for outside play.

A supply of nappies

A named bottle of sun cream so that this can be reapplied if needed later in the day.

A named packed lunch box



Further information and visits

We are committed to ensuring that all children in our care experience a warm, caring, fun and stimulating environment. We welcome any parents or carers of prospective children to come and visit us and experience the our lovely community playgroup for yourselves. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you want to arrange a visit or require further information.

fowlmereplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

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