

Stay and Play

Have you ever thought about being a parent helper? If you feel that you'd like to come along one morning to help us we would be really pleased to see you. To give you some idea of what being a parent helper entails, we have put together answers to some commonly asked questions.

Q: What is a parent helper?

A: A parent helper is any parent or guardian who can spare some time during a pre-school session to help out with different activities.

Q: How much time will it take and how often will I be expected to come?

A: Whenever you can or want to! You can spend half an hour, an hour or a whole session; it's up to you.

Q: What would I be expected to do?

A: Nothing that you didn't feel comfortable with. You could help with anything that is part of a normal session - art/craft, reading stories, playing simple games, singing, tidying up and scissor control work.

Q: I'd never manage to work with a lot of children.

A: You wouldn't have to. You may work with individual children or small groups of up to 4 to 6 children.

Q: How will my child react to me being there?

A: Most children love having the special person in their life helping. It makes them feel important. Occasionally, some children do act out of character but this tends to be fairly short-lived.

Q: What if I have younger children at home?

A: We are happy for you to bring younger children in with you but you must NOT leave them unsupervised, especially babies. Staff are responsible for the Pre-School children attending the group but parents/carers are responsible for supervising any other children they bring with them.

Q: Is there anything I should be aware of if I do come in and help?

A: Being a helper may sometimes place you in a delicate position. You may witness very personal situations concerning children, parents and staff. Please always respect that confidentiality is needed at such times.

You will become aware of children with problems, perhaps in speech, behaviour, learning or hygiene. Children with problems need extra care and support. Please never talk to a parent about what their child was doing. Staff will always inform parents of important happenings when the children are collected - idle gossip will only cause worry.

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We expect certain standards of behaviour from our children and it is essential that helpers follow policy in:

- **insisting upon good manners**
- **never allowing children to be rude in their dealings with other children or adults**
- **never allowing children to behave in a rough manner.**

If you are concerned about a child's behaviour please tell a member of staff who will deal with the matter in accordance with our Pre-School policy.

- If you are writing the children's names on their work please do so in the top left hand corner with appropriate use of upper and lower case letters.
- In accordance with our Policies only staff members should take children to the toilet.

We do hope that whilst your child attends Yateley Community Pre-School you will be able to find the time occasionally to come in and help and that you enjoy your time with us. We would be really pleased to see you and you can be assured that your help is greatly appreciated. We hope that we have managed to deal with any concerns you may have; if you do have any other queries, please talk to us.