

## **An introduction to Preschool- Green Room**

Our Juice Nursery Preschool (also known as the Green Room) is structured to meet the specific learning and developmental needs of our older children.

A well co-ordinated process ensures that they are socially and emotionally ready to take on the move to 'Big School' at the end of the academic year.

With a passion for Early Years, our Green Room team is headed up by qualified Teacher, Kate, together with our Room Leader, Natalie, supported qualified Childcare Workers.

The children's interests are at the heart of everything we do here at Juice, supporting children to become confident, engaged and independent learners. Each member of staff has their own Key Children and Keyworkers spend time with their children really getting to know their likes, dislikes and interests. The Keyworkers play alongside the children supporting and developing their learning through their interests, observing them interact with their peers, creating engaging learning opportunities and recording these 'teachable moments' as observations.

Activities within the room are designed to be fun, open ended, create curiosity and inspire. We believe this is central to their learning and helps to ensure that our Preschool is a truly stimulating and engaging environment, where the children can develop their confidence and enjoy learning.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

In Preschool, we continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The EYFS is how the Government, and indeed how we, as Early Years professionals, describe the time in a child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it helps a child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when a child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

### **Personal and Social Development**

In Preschool, we support children individually to develop confidence, autonomy and self-respect. There is a cosy space to encourage children to chat with friends and adults. We explore friendship through stories and puppets and practice turn taking and sharing. We encourage self awareness and provide ways that children can let others know how they are feeling, supporting children to solve conflict



independently. When the children move up from Orange or Blue Room, they are mostly toilet trained and we continue to support their independence with toileting and self-care.

All meals and snacks are self-serve which helps to develop confidence and independence and the children are encouraged to use the toilet independently, however, staff are always on hand if assistance is required.

### Communication and Language

Children have access to communication friendly spaces, where they can relax and talk. Circle Time provides an excellent opportunity for children to develop their speaking and listening skills. We read a wide variety of books together and encourage children to show good listening on the carpet for short periods of time to prepare them for school. Children join in with rhymes and stories and we create opportunities for children to work in pairs and share ideas. We also help children to develop their vocabulary and the children get the opportunity to tell their own stories and act them out, developing their confidence. In the environment, we consciously provide children with opportunities to stimulate conversation and ask questions.



We also follow the I CAN 'Early Talk' programme which focuses on children's speech and language development, through enjoyable yet effective communication-based activities.

### Physical Development



Preschool children are given time and space to enjoy energetic play daily. As well as daily garden time, the children enjoy weekly Stretch-n-Grow sessions, plus twice a week they take part in PE sessions in the Town Hall, where the children practice yoga and play games that allow them to develop skills such as throwing, catching, balancing, rolling, gross motor skills and team work.

The children also take part in weekly 'Muddy Morning' sessions, where the children experience a range of outdoor learning opportunities come rain or shine. The outdoor environment is not only a great place to develop physical skills but also creates many learning opportunities across all areas of the EYFS including going on leaf hunts, building dens, climbing on play equipment and re-enacting stories like 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. In Green Room we feel that it is important that we

teach children how to manage risk in a safe environment as this helps to develop their problem solving skills and resilience.

Within our Preschool, the children are taught how to use simple tools and materials safely in order to construct and create, including scissors and tape dispensers. We have recently introduced woodwork skills to our setting including using hammers, nails and saws. The children will work closely with an adult to use this equipment safely and not only use their physical skills but their creative and Maths skills too. We also start to focus on pencil grip and control. The children have access to a mark making area, whiteboard and a chalkboard where they can practice their skills.

We run Dough Gym sessions within the room, which is a great way to help children work on their upper body and gross motor development, but with focused input on their hands, fingers and grip, which are all very important as children start to mark make and go on to begin writing.



As previously mentioned, we have a strong focus on self-care, ensuring that children can serve themselves at mealtimes, cut their food themselves using a knife and fork and going to the toilet independently too.

## Literacy



During your child's time in Green Room, they will take part in regular Phonics sessions. Kate plans this using the Government Letters and Sounds strategy, firstly reinforcing their understanding of Phase 1 which they begin in Blue and Orange Room. Phase 1 has 6 Aspects that the children will take part in before moving on to recognising graphemes(letters) and the sounds they make (Phase 2)

When we feel the children are ready, we begin to introduce the Phase 2 sounds, learning one sound a week. We then use their understanding of the sounds to read CVC words (such as c-a-t) and by the end of the year, some may be reading short phrases too!

We love reading books in Green Room and share a wide range of fact and fiction books and look at the way in which books and stories are structured by reading blurbs, using an Index, making predictions, ordering stories and drawing story maps. We also make our own class stories, with an adult modelling writing for a purpose. The children are provided with plenty of opportunities for writing, on our writing table from letters to Santa, to postcards. We encourage the children to read their own name by incorporating the opportunity to finding their name at

dinner time and some will begin to recognise other children's names and logos in their environment too.

## Mathematics

In Maths, we play lots of games and sing songs so that children have a fun reason to count. We use numbers in play and within the environment. We solve simple, real life number problems, count groups of objects and order numerals. The children will begin to explore shape, recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes, exploring patterns and even symmetry! We incorporate mathematical themes based on the children's interest so it has more



meaning and appeal such as organising data in to pictograms and bar charts of our eye colour or favourite fairy tale character. They will experience telling the time, making their own clocks, understanding simple time telling and using sand timers to measure time too. During their time in Green Room, the children will experience handling money, recognising coins, adding small amounts, and buying items from our 'shop'.

## Understanding of the World

In Preschool, we cover many themes that help children to understand their world including religious celebrations of different faiths, the seasons, people who help us and world celebrations such as Chinese New Year. We love having visitors and invite a range of people including Police Officers, Firemen, Doctors, Dentists and the Postman to name but a few. But we would love to invite parents in with different skills including if you have an artistic flair or would just like to read a story, you would be welcome with open arms.

The children really enjoy and are encouraged to talk about their own families and environments, celebrating diversity within the group.



We frequently visit our local environment and develop an understanding of growth and changes over time and take the children on various visits to support our curriculum. These have included visiting the Library, the Market, Timperley Pet Shop, Sale Waterside Arts Centre and Dunham Park by foot, bus and tram. As we have great access to Manchester, we have been to Manchester Art Gallery and the Museum of Science and Industry too. In Spring we have been using the planter at the front of nursery to do some



planting and learning about what plants and herbs need to grow, so far growing potatoes, carrots, raspberries and herbs but we would like to grow even more!



We are lucky enough to have access to a mobile cookery centre and bake and cook on a weekly basis, as this provides lots of learning opportunities across the EYFS.

We are also very fortunate to have a link with a Kathy's Kinder garden in Uganda. We linked up with the charity Act 4 Africa to correspond with the preschool children and teachers. It gives the children an opportunity to learn about children living in a different country and talk about similarities and differences between are country and culture, and theirs.

The children also have access to a range of ICT equipment including iPads, cameras and programmable equipment such as a Beebot. They are encouraged to use these independently, whilst being closely supervised by a member of staff.

### Expressive Arts and Design

We love to create at Juice and in Preschool, the children have lots of time to dance, sing and make music. They also have lots of opportunity to experiment with colours, textures and materials.



We have modelling resources where the children can construct with a purpose in mind and practise using tools such as scissors. We use lots of malleable materials such as play dough and clay and the children listen to a wide range of music.

We love to be imaginative and we have designed our role play area to support the developing interests of the children. We call this de-constructed role play where the children have access to range of resources that they can use in many different ways to create whatever their heart desires including dens, shops, hair dressers and re-enacting their favourite stories. This is a great area for developing their communication skills, managing their feelings and making friendships.

## Uniform

We do have 'uniform' for Preschool children (pictured) although this is entirely optional and even if children wear the polo shirt, they can still choose what to wear on their legs! We recommend soft trousers, shorts or skirts, for ease when using the toilets.



The reason we introduced a uniform is because research has shown that a uniform can increase social, behavioural and academic progress within an educational setting. This helps to give the children a sense of identity and 'school readiness', and therefore, we do recommend that children do have one.

For our Muddy Morning activities, the children will be kitted out in Puddlesuits, however, we do ask that if your child is with us that morning, that you provide some wellies to stay at nursery.

## Communication with Parents

Our Teacher, Kate, writes & sends out a weekly Preschool Blog which is emailed direct to your inbox. This includes lots of details including photographs, showing what the children have been getting up to that week, explaining the children's development and any useful links to websites that will support your child's learning at home too.



In addition, you will continue to receive regular eyLog updates from your child's Key person.

We hold an annual Parent's Evening in May/June, however, Kate is available to speak to parents throughout the year should they wish to discuss any aspect of their child's development. In addition, there are various opportunities for parents to join in with nursery activities during the year if they wish, including Mother's & Father's Day, Stay and Play, Christmas production, Family Fun Day's, as well as the end of year Graduation ceremony.

## Transition



As we near the end of the year we prepare a full report on each child which we send to their Reception Teacher, so that in advance of their starting at their new schools, their teachers will already have had some background information on them, their interests as well as their progress and development. We also invite the Reception Teachers to come in to nursery to meet the children in the Preschool if they would like to.

It is very hard to say goodbye to the children, as many of them have been with us since they were babies, however, we send them off in style as they prepare for their new adventure at school with a special Graduation Ceremony, which is designed to celebrate all their achievements in Preschool.

We hope this provides you with a good understanding of the fun and learning that takes place in Green Room and if you have any questions, please feel free to drop Kate an email [kate@juicenursery.com](mailto:kate@juicenursery.com)

We look forward to seeing you in September!