



# New Ark Playgroup

Pre-school for 2 to 4 year olds

## We love to play!

Play is a child's natural way of learning...

Play makes life exciting, interesting and fun...

Play is at the heart of everything we do at New Ark..



New Ark is a special place where children of all ages are encouraged to play in ways that are creative, adventurous and explore the world

Welcoming children since 1981, we provide a secure and unique range of facilities during playgroup sessions including an extensive grassed adventure playground with creative wooden structures, a city farm with several different types of animals and a forest school where children can build dens, cook outdoors and explore amongst the trees.

At New Ark children can make, bake, rake, stack, splash, dig, climb, swing, jump, ride and slide. All the things children do best!

We are very proud of the positive feedback we receive from parents, many of whom were once New Ark children themselves.

New Ark achieved yet another Outstanding rating in 2013 from Ofsted who said: "Children are very keen to learn in the rich and exciting playgroup, farm, adventure playground and eco centre that support them." [report can be found at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)— search using the URN 256791].



## Playgroup information

Sessions times are Mondays to Fridays:  
Morning sessions from 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Afternoon sessions from 12:30 to 3:00pm

### Free places

All three and four year olds (and some two year olds) are entitled to up to 15 hours of pre-school education per week funded by the Government. The entitlement begins the term after your child's third birthday. At New Ark we offer 2 to 3 sessions in a child's first academic year with us and 5 sessions in the year before they start school.

### Additional sessions

As there is often a high demand for places, we can't always offer additional sessions beyond those described above. Sessions before your 15 hours of Government funding begins are chargeable at £8 per session. Should you be using your free 15 hours with another childcare provider but require additional childcare at New Ark, this is charged at £10 per session.

### Key worker

For familiarity your child will be assigned a member of staff whose role is to establish a relationship with your child, to help settle them in and to address any questions or concerns you may have.

### Working with parents

Ongoing communication between staff and parents is very important and feedback in both directions is actively encouraged. From time-to-time we invite parents to special events, including reviews of your child's learning log, to discuss how your child is progressing within the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. This includes:

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



## Eco Babies

These are our youngest pre-schoolers and are usually children born between Easter and the end of August. We try to schedule their first term in our Eco Centre as the number of children in these Forest School sessions is much smaller.

## Year before school

To help prepare your child for longer school days we offer an optional full day, where your child stays for both the morning and afternoon sessions and brings in a packed lunch. That day will usually be split between activities in our Eco centre and the main playschool building. We ask that in this year one of their sessions is either a Thursday afternoon or Friday afternoon, as this is when we do some focused work with just the older children in preparation for starting school.

## Initial visits

We believe it is important for you as a parent to be comfortable that New Ark is the right place for your child, and that your child gets a gradual introduction to the pre-school environment. Therefore, before they start we offer up to three visits where your child participates in a playgroup session with you observing. These visits are charged at £1.50 each and are an opportunity for our staff to learn more about your child through discussion with you. Our staff are highly experienced in identifying and catering for a child's individual needs, a strength recognised by many who refer families to us.

## Waiting list

We maintain a list of parents interested in bringing their children to New Ark playgroup during our weekly Parent & Toddler Group. This is open to any child from 0 to 3 years who is accompanied by a parent or carer.

### **Parent & Toddler Group**

This is held on Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm in term-time and 2pm to 4pm during the school summer holidays. It is the perfect opportunity to look around and get a feel for New Ark. The session is £1 for adults and 50p per child and includes a hot/cold drink and a visit to our farm. It is held in our Eco Centre and its wooded area, to the right of the main building.



## 5 reasons to bring your child to New Ark playgroup

**Staff** – our Playgroup Leaders believe in providing a caring environment that nurtures the individual needs of young children. They have over 70 years of experience with pre-schoolers.

**Space** – we have fantastic play areas to run around in, including one of the largest adventure playgrounds in the region.

**City Farm** - every child is given the opportunity to feed and care for our animals in our City Farm.

**Eco-Centre** – every child enjoys sessions in our wooded area, where Forest School trained staff teach them outdoor skills and help develop an appreciation of ecology and the outdoor environment.

**Recognition** – the imaginative work of New Ark's staff has been recognised by both parents and Ofsted time and time again.

## What parents and inspectors say about us...

“We have just started but have fallen in love with it already. Hours of fun had and I know hours of fun to come.” Nathanael's mummy.

“The passion and dedication of all the staff is so clear to see...The beautiful books you have made contain precious reminders of his time here and he loves to look through them...” Christopher's mummy.

“New Ark had highly innovative teaching methods which include Forest School sessions and making full use of the City Farm to engage children in learning about the natural world and living things.” Ofsted, May 2013

**Should you have any further queries or would like to view our policies, please feel free to contact our Playgroup Manager, Nikki Anderson on 01733 340605 or email [info@newarkplay.co.uk](mailto:info@newarkplay.co.uk)**

**Nature Garden • Eco Centre • Adventure Playground • City Farm  
Preschool Playgroups • Parent Toddler Group • Play Support Service  
After School & Holiday Sessions • School Visits • Birthday Parties**

New Ark Play



Newark Play Association Ltd  
Hill Close (Reeves Way)  
Peterborough PE1 5LZ  
Reg charity 1026751

[www.newarkplay.co.uk](http://www.newarkplay.co.uk)  
[www.localgiving.com/newarkplay](http://www.localgiving.com/newarkplay)  
[info@newarkplay.co.uk](mailto:info@newarkplay.co.uk)  
01733 340605