

Playground information for parents

Newark Play Association Ltd, Hill Close (Reeves Way), Peterborough PE1 5LZ

Telephone: 01733 340605

Email : info@newarkplay.co.uk

Website: www.newarkplay.co.uk

Donations: www.localgiving.com/newarkplay

Reg charity 1026751 (England), Ltd company 1712322 (England)

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground
City Farm & Eco Centre

Welcome to New Ark Adventure Playground

Please keep this information for reference whilst your child is at New Ark.

New Ark provides a safe but challenging play area for school aged children. We aim to provide a high quality programme of free play and activities. New Ark is supervised by professional play workers, and is a registered charity managed by a voluntary committee of parents and local people.

Important information

You have given permission for your child to receive medical treatment in case of an emergency, in accordance with the recommendations of a qualified medical practitioner. Details of any accidents and treatments will be entered into our medical records with a copy for parent/guardian upon collection of their child. You will be contacted if possible in the case of an accident to your child.

If you move house or change phone numbers please tell us at once, in case of an emergency.

Opening times

Afterschool sessions: Monday-Friday 3.45pm-6pm (or collection from Newark Hill School at 3.15pm)

School holiday sessions: Monday to Friday between 10am-12 noon and 2pm - 5pm

During school holidays we offer additional childcare outside of our normal opening times – this is only available for registered children. The earliest you can leave your child with us is 8.30am; the latest you can collect them is 6pm - ask us for pricing details if you are interested. Please note that additional childcare must be booked and paid for at least 24 hours in advance to allow us to ensure correct staffing ratios.

If there are variations to the above times we will try to give adequate notice on our premises and website.

Arrival and leaving

We ask that children aged 8 and under are signed into and out of our premises by a responsible person e.g. an adult or sibling aged 14+. The signing in/out book is kept in our office and you should ask for it when you drop off/collect your child.

Our front door is kept closed and entry is controlled by a playworker. If you want your children to stay at New Ark you must make this clear to them as we cannot prevent a child aged 8+ from leaving the premises.

If you collect your children from the playground please arrive 15 minutes before we are due to close especially if you have to speak to a manager, make a payment etc. **If you are late collecting your child you will be charged £10 per 15 minutes or part thereof.** Your registration will be reviewed if you are late 3 times. If you are going to be late due to unforeseen circumstances you MUST contact New Ark on 01733 340605 so that we are aware – please put this number in your mobile now so that you can contact us when it is urgent.

All families are required to respect our neighbours, arriving quickly and quietly and leaving no litter. We have a no smoking policy and politely ask you to not smoke once inside our barrier gates

What to bring (and not bring)

Please do not allow your child to bring bikes / scooters / valuables or large quantities of money into the premises as we accept no responsibility for these or similar items. We have lockers available for use by children. We discourage children from bringing games and mobile phones – if they do then we ask them to not take photographs or connect to the internet while at New Ark as part of our safeguarding policy.

Children may bring up to 25p per day for tuck which is served in the afternoon. Please give money to staff on arrival for safe keeping. Parents may prefer to leave a lump sum for use over several days/weeks – this is 'banked' and can be used for tuck or activities which have a small charge attached e.g. baking, eco sessions.

Dress your child for outdoor play with a warm coat/raincoat/sunhat/sunscreen as appropriate. Name all clothes your child can remove – especially shoes, hats, gloves and coats. Shoes should be sturdy and have closed

toes - sandals are dangerous for climbing. Similarly we recommend that long hair is tied back and dangly earrings/jewellery is not worn.

Behaviour

All children can expect to play freely and with confidence and security. No child will be allowed to detract from another child's experience of New Ark. Our behaviour policy is on display in the lobby of our main building and you may ask us for a copy.

At times we may feel it necessary to talk to you about your child's behaviour and development. While we will always have the child's best interests in mind, it is helpful to discuss any problems with you and where relevant we can assist in referring you to other agencies.

In the interest of all staff and children, we will not tolerate behaviour believed to be harmful or in any way abusive. We reserve the right to exclude any child or adult acting in this manner.

When you leave your children at New Ark you must have confidence in the whole team to supervise them. If you do not, your children should not be left with us.

Parents staying on the premises

We welcome visitors to New Ark but numbers are restricted – please talk to a playworker before staying on the premises.

The use of cameras and mobile phones is controlled by our safeguarding policy – please speak to a play worker if you wish to take a picture of your own child. You are not allowed to distribute any picture containing other children, including on social media sites.

You may bring children aged below-school-age – please make a donation and remain onsite with them. Some of our outdoor play structures require care and you may feel they are unsuitable for your under 5 child.

If your child is new to New Ark you may wish to stay for a session or two to help them settle in – we suggest you help to run a craft activity indoors which gives your child the freedom to explore and return to you when they wish. Our playworkers keep a close eye on new children, encouraging conversations with other children and suggesting activities if appropriate. Encourage your children to ask a playworker for help if they need it.

Volunteering and fundraising

Help from parents and carers is really appreciated, especially with fundraising and joining our management committee. If you wish to help on our farm or regularly help run activities, please speak with a member of staff.

We can only maintain low fees if parents help with fundraising and donations. In appreciation of your support, we will refund your family's registration fee if you can raise 3 times the value of your registration fee e.g. raise £135 for a refund of a £45 registration fee. You could fundraise with a raffle, a cake stall, an evening event, a sponsored event or even a donation. You can donate online at: www.localgiving.com/newarkplay

A reminder of what's on offer

Outdoors we have several large adventure play structures, a digging area, and a hard area for ball games etc. When appropriate we organise activities such as outdoor cooking, waterslides, den building & messy games.

Our city farm is open during most playground sessions and children are encouraged to observe and care for the animals. They can sponsor and name an animal at birth and can take eggs home from the farm birds. Families are encouraged to volunteer for feeding and caring duties outside normal opening hours.

Indoors we have facilities to provide a range of art and craft activities and games.

During holiday playground sessions we often run additional events for which there is a small charge e.g. baking, forest-school eco sessions. Keep your eye on our noticeboards for more details).

You may also be interested in the following New Ark services – please ask for further details:

- Parent and Toddler Group - for children aged from 0-4 and their parents/carers.
- Preschool Playgroups - for children aged from 2yrs9 months to develop learning/social skills through play.
- Play Support Service - for individuals and small groups with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- Group visits - for schools and other groups to visit our city farm.
- Birthday parties - hire our premises for a birthday celebration which is suitable for toddlers to young teens.