



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— search using the URN 256791].





Playgroup information

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

Some three and four olds are entitled to an additional 15 hours of childcare funded by the Government. Please ask us for details.

Additional sessions

We can sometimes offer additional sessions, over and above the 15 or 30 Government-funded hours. These are chargeable at £8 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

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. So, before children start at New Ark, 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 keep 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. See back page for details.



What parents and inspectors say about us...

“Fantastic preschool, excellent staff and facilities.” Karen

“It allows little ones to feel free and adventurous and is led by the children themselves.” Hayley

“New Ark offers children a unique and original opportunity to engage in outdoor and indoor play activities... All the staff interact with the children at their own level and provide quality care for the children lucky enough to attend New Ark.” Kate

“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

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.

Parent & Toddler Group

This is held on Wednesdays 1pm-3pm in term-time, and occasionally during the main school summer holidays. It offers the perfect opportunity to look around and get a feel for New Ark.

The session costs £1.50 for each child and 50p per adult. It includes a hot/cold drink and a visit to our city farm. It is held in our Eco Centre and its wooded area, just to the right of our main building.



**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



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