

# Playhouse Playgroup

The Romany Scout Hut,  
22a Lyford Road, Wandsworth,  
London, SW18 3LG  
07790 165720

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2009/2010

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Playhouse Playgroup.

Playhouse Playgroup aims to be a fun and relaxed place where children can learn through play and make friends. We offer an environment where parents and carers are welcome to stay and can develop a sense of community and social support.

The Playgroup is regularly inspected by OFSTED (reports available), and is a member of the educational charity, the Wandsworth Primary Play Association. A set of our Policies and Procedures, which provide the framework for our daily operation, is available on request at Playgroup for parents to inspect.

Attached are the Aims and Philosophies of the Playgroup, and set out below is some information about the Playgroup and the year ahead, that we hope you will find useful.

## Opening Times and Dates

Playhouse Playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 12 noon. Term dates are given below. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, these are subject to change you will be notified in writing.

Every term additional activities are organised which last year included a pirate week, fundraising and charity sales and end of term parties. These are always great fun and we will let you know at Playgroup when these are coming up.

<b>Autumn Term 2009</b>	
Start of Term	Thu 3 September
Half Term	Mon 26 – Fri 30 October
End of Term	Fri 18 December
<b>Spring Term 2010</b>	
Start of Term	Thu 7 January
Half Term	Mon 15 – Fri 19 February
End of Term	Thu 1 April
<b>Summer Term 2010</b>	
Start of Term	Mon 19 April
Half Term	Mon 31 May - Tue 8 June (Mon 7 June Inset day) 3 May, May day bank holiday
End of Term	Wed 21 July

## Organisation Structure

Playhouse Playgroup is managed by a voluntary committee of parents of current and past attendees of playgroup. We employ the play leaders and other teachers, pay the wages, collect the fees and manage the day to day running of the playgroup.

Play leaders	Lisa Gomer Shona Fletcher
Committee	Rachel Croft Rachel Ford Rachel Morrice Charlotte Penniceard (social) Catherine Ratcliffe (treasurer) Lee Taylor (secretary) Lousia Warfield (rota/admissions/waiting list)

## Weekly Activities

Every day the children take part in arts and crafts activities. We have a football session on a Tuesday and a music and movement session on a Friday, which both run from 11.30am. On Wednesdays and Thursdays the children get a chance to cook or make food to take home. We also have singing on a Wednesday. Parents/carers are welcome to stay and enjoy the children's play, and have a coffee and a chat with each other.

## The Structure of the Morning

<b>9am</b>	<b>Setting up</b> Rota parents and play leaders set up the equipment
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Playgroup opens</b> Play leader leads activities in arts and crafts, free play opportunities indoors and outside, weather permitting.
<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Circle Time</b> The children join the play leaders and sitting together in a circle, sing a Good Morning song, say the days of the week, and count the number of children. Every child is offered a drink, fruit and a biscuit.
<b>11am</b>	<b>Story time</b> A rota parent reads a story to the children
<b>11.30 Tues/Fri</b>	<b>Football/Music and Movement</b> Sessions run by external teachers (see above for which sessions run on which day)
<b>11.45</b>	<b>Music Time</b> The children sing action nursery rhymes in a circle with the play leader. Adults are encouraged to join in the singing.
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Home Time</b> Children collect their artwork and cooking to take home

### **Rota Duties**

To help with the smooth running of the Playgroup, two adults, in addition to the play leaders, are asked to perform rota duties.

We will ask you to help out one morning every half term for the number of mornings your child attends playgroup. Your 'rota duty' involves arriving as close to 9 am as possible, helping set up, making teas and coffees and helping look after the children. It can be fun, it is a great way to get to know people at playgroup and it is really important! We can not operate without your involvement. If you can not do your day, as allocated at the beginning of term, you can swap with another mother or pay £10 for Playgroup to arrange a replacement. (The money goes to your replacement.)

### **Parental Feedback**

Playhouse Playgroup is run for parents by parents and we welcome and encourage suggestions and feedback. Parents are welcome to stay with their children and enjoy their children's play, and to chat and get to know other parents, the staff and committee members.

The play leaders are available to discuss any issues at the end of the daily session. Additionally we provide opportunities to talk to parents during the regular parties, special events and fundraising events.

We hope that you and your child enjoy your time at Playgroup. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ring the above number during term time. Please let us know if you want to change your days, or if you have a friend who would like to join.

With best wishes,

The committee  
**2009/2010**

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## Aims and Philosophy

The central aims of Playhouse Playgroup are:

1. For children to have fun
2. For children to learn through play
3. For parents and carers to learn child care skills from each other and develop a sense of community and social support.
4. For parents and carers and children to enjoy time together with the wide variety of imaginative toys, books, games, arts and crafts materials and outdoor equipment.

Children develop in many areas through their time at Playhouse Playgroup:

### Personal and Social Development

At Playgroup, children learn to develop their social skill through play with other children. They learn to share, and to negotiate with other children when they want a turn with a toy. They learn how to make friends, how to entertain each other, and how to interact in imaginative play. Twice every morning the children sit in a circle together (once for juice and biscuits and once for song time) and they learn to wait their turn, follow a routine, and look after each other handing the biscuits round. They learn to listen together to stories at Story Time, and to join in discussions about what they can see in the pictures.

As the majority of parents stay for at least the first few months of their child's time at Playgroup, the child's self confidence visibly develops as they become used to the environment and the other children and adults. They are then left without their parents when they are older, feeling secure and confident and able to develop their independence. They learn to choose the activity they wish to play, whilst at the same time being encouraged to join in all the activities planned each day.

### Physical Development

Through physical play on the climbing frames, and on the many outdoor toys - bikes, trikes, and cars - children can develop their physical skills and confidence at Playgroup. With so many mothers/ carers present, children can be adventurous knowing they are in a safe environment. There are always plenty of adults to help the children build their strength and develop their agility and also to supervise the outdoor play.

The wide variety of toys and arts and craft activities provides opportunities for children to develop their fine motor skills, and their hand eye coordination. Every day different skills are developed in the chosen craft activity, be it sticking, cutting, painting, or building models. In cooking, the children also develop their motor skills with stirring, pouring,

spreading and cutting.

## **Creative Development**

With a good supply of imaginative toys and equipment, ranging from dressing up clothes to a fully equipped kitchen, children are able to develop their creative and imaginative skills. Children dress up and take on different roles, invent stories with the dolls house or the Brio train set. In the arts and crafts activities, they are encouraged to make objects such as necklaces, houses and train tracks. They create images of every day objects as well as using different materials to represent the seasons, and cultural events such as Christmas, Chinese New Year and Mother's Day. Every day, through songs and use of instruments children develop their musical abilities and gain a sense of aural and physical rhythm.

## **Communication, Language and Literacy**

Through interaction with all the other children and adults at Playgroup, children develop their communication skills and continually learn new words and phrases. They learn words associated with cooking and with themes developed through the arts and crafts. Through each activity children and adults talk to each other all the time and the children's ability to communicate their thoughts becomes more complex and expressive. The written word is all around, with plenty of story books available for the children to browse through. Children are read to at Story Time every day and also by parents and carers. The children learn to recognise their name written on all their work, and eventually to write it themselves.

## **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

The children's knowledge and understanding of the world is constantly being developed at Playgroup. The children learn about each other as they make friends and through the structured activities they learn about each others cultures, about cultural events, the seasons, colours etc. Through cooking, children learn how things change when mixed together or exposed to heat. Through jigsaws and building blocks children learn how shapes look and fit together. Through the music session twice a week, children learn about different sounds, rhythms and noise and quiet. They learn about the world from the stories told through songs, both traditional and new.

## **Mathematical Development**

The play leaders encourage the children's counting and understanding of numbers throughout their work with them, be it through counting beads for threading or through different board games. Their understanding of shapes is developed through craft activities and construction toys. Their sense of space is developed through many indoor and outdoor games.

## **Conclusion**

Children are eager to learn and accomplish new tasks, both physical and mental. The relaxed, yet structured atmosphere of Playhouse Playgroup allows children to learn new skills in an environment where they feel safe. Playhouse Playgroup helps children to develop their social, physical and mental abilities, whilst having fun at the same time.