

Jolly Pirates Pre-school

(Funded places - morning and afternoon sessions)

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Website: www.jollypiratespreschool.co.uk

Facebook: Jolly Pirates Preschool

Thank you for coming to view and reading about Jolly Pirates Pre-school. We hope you enjoy your visit and that you found your time here to be both informative and helpful. Here at Jolly Pirates, we understand that choosing the best setting to provide your child with the Northern Ireland Pre-school Curriculum education can be a difficult decision. Therefore, it can be difficult to take in all the information given to you during your visit. For this reason, we have decided to put together this booklet outlining everything you will have discussed during your viewing. The information will contain a little more detail, allowing you to learn all about Jolly Pirates in your own time and to hopefully help you make the best decision for your child.

If you select Jolly Pirates Pre-school as the setting you wish your child to attend and you are offered a place, we will invite you and your child to a play and stay information evening before the commencement of the school year.

Should you have any questions or wish to call in for a second viewing, please feel free to call us and arrange a time that suits you and we will be happy to help.

Many thanks,

Jolly Pirates team;

Sarah (Jolly Pirates Principal Leader)

Jennifer (Jolly Pirates Assistant)

Aine (Jolly Pirates Assistant)

Inside Jolly Pirates Pre-school

Jolly Pirates Pre-school provides funded places for your child's nursery school year under the Education Authority South Eastern Region (previously known as the South Eastern Education and Library Board). We follow the Northern Ireland Pre-school Curriculum.

The staff to child ratio for Jolly Pirates is 1:8 and whilst on trips there is a smaller staff to child ratio.

The Jolly Pirates staff are:

Principal Leader: Sarah McCambley

Jolly Pirates assistants: Jennifer Morrison

Aine McCutcheon

Jolly Pirates Pre-school staff are fully qualified, with the Principal Leader holding a BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies degree and the assistants holding NVQ Level 3 qualifications. All staff also hold up-to-date Child Protection and First Aid qualifications. In addition to many other course qualifications including the ASD twilight training and Health and Safety.

Jolly Pirates Pre-school opened in September 2011 providing 16 part-time funded places under the South Eastern Education and Library board. Jolly Pirates Pre-school was inspected by ETI (Education Training Inspectorate) in November 2012 after only 13 months of opening. They were awarded a 'Good' rating with aspects of 'Very Good'. Since then we have continued to greatly improve practice and the provisions the setting can provide. To view the report, you can visit the ETI Website. Currently Jolly Pirates Pre-school now provides 24 part-time funded places in a morning session and 16 part-time funded places in an afternoon session. A part-time funded place session is a two-and-a-half-hour session (5 days a week). Jolly Pirates Pre-school has grown in strength over the past few years and continues to do so. We pride ourselves on being a caring and informative setting for both your child and parents/families.

Jolly Pirates Pre-school is also inspected on a yearly basis by Social Services. The latest Social Services inspection was carried out in November 2018 with very positive feedback given to staff on the day with no recommendations and

no non-compliances. We are currently awaiting the publication of this latest inspection report from Social Services.

Applying for a place

The Education Authority are now operating a digital admissions system for children applying for their pre-school year. You can view further information on the website www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

In addition, we will update parents with the time frame for applying. Please check the 'availability' tab for further information. To do this click on our news tab on www.jollypiratespreschool.co.uk and then scroll down until you see 'availability' link on the right hand side of the screen. Click on this to view all of our updates about intake each year and open days.

Jolly Pirates facilities

Jolly Pirates is based within the grounds of Jolly Rodgers day nursery. We are located to the back of the premises in a purpose-built classroom. We have a very spacious classroom, offering the children the opportunity to take part in lots of different learning areas, based around the classroom. These include a sensory area, sand, water, art & creative, table top, reading area, construction area and many more! We also have a specially made two storey 'loft' for our role play and imaginative area. As we are based on the premises of Jolly Rodgers day nursery, we can explore four very spacious and separate outdoor areas. These areas include a planting area, music, construction, track, large climbing frame, sensory play house, small climbing frame, digging area, chalk boards, art area and free play areas. We also have purpose-built mud kitchens and also a fairy land forest to explore. Both indoors and outdoors we provide areas that cover all six areas promoted in the curriculum. There is a lot to explore! We also provide the children with all-purpose weather suits when exploring.

Also, we can avail of using a purpose built sensory room. This room is fitted with highly specified sensory equipment such as lighting, sounds and other resources to explore our 5 senses. This room is very popular with the children and is a unique opportunity for children in their nursery school year to experience.

Northern Ireland Pre-school Curriculum

Within Jolly Pirates we implement the Northern Ireland Pre-school Curriculum. This can be found on the DENI website if you wish to take a closer look. The six areas we focus on are;

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Language development
- The arts/ creative development
- Early mathematical development
- The World Around Us
- Physical development and movement

Parents can be reassured that we implement and adhere to the same curriculum as nursery schools. We are also governed by the same ETI inspections and through the Education Authority South Eastern Region.

We provide the curriculum through monthly projects. Children have input into the plans and we very much value child learning and the voice of the child. Plans are always located each week on our notice board outside our entrance door for parents to view at any time.

Starting Jolly Pirates Pre-school

When it comes time to start Jolly Pirates Pre-school you will be provided with the relevant policy pack and information documents at a parents evening. You are then invited to attend a play and stay evening with your child where more information will be provided. This is where you can attend Jolly Pirates with your child to allow them to meet their new classmates before they start their year in Jolly Pirates.

Learning through play

Children through the curriculum are encouraged to learn through play. There are a lot of different opportunities for your child to learn and gain knowledge whilst playing in a structured, secure and safe environment. Learning is aimed to be as fun, enjoyable and interesting as possible for the children. Your child will learn individually and will also gain learning and understanding from their peers. During play a lot of different styles of activities will be provided, covering a

wide range of learning and curriculum areas. Learning through play will also provide your child an opportunity to develop their independence and to develop their senses and interest areas.

Whilst we are learning through play, risk assessments are carried out daily both indoors and outdoors to ensure a safe environment. We also get the opportunity to carry learning through play outdoors, by using our outdoor areas. We try to get out every day, including in different weathers for some fresh air and exercise. Suitable clothing is encouraged to be worn all year round and sun protection will be used when needed e.g. sun cream.

Parent involvement and a 'home from home' environment

We operate an 'open door policy' for parents. We can talk to you at drop off or pick up times and we can also be contacted by phone or email. We appreciate parent involvement in your child's learning. Jolly Pirates promote parent involvement through parent/ teacher meetings, home activities, book bags and play and stay sessions.

We work hard to create a 'home from home' environment for the children in our care and strive to make the transition into Jolly Pirates and then onto primary one as smooth as possible for the children and as stress free as possible for the parents.

A session in Jolly Pirates

In Jolly Pirates Pre-school we strive to make the daily routine and schedule as easy and comfortable as possible for your child. Within our sessions the following aspects take place;

- Free play & learning
- Snack (running alongside free play)
- Circle time
- Outdoor play & learning
- Story/ song time

Our daily routine can be viewed on our schedule board. The routine can change depending on circumstances e.g. a trip or visit taking place and weather.

Contact with parents

As previously discussed, Jolly Pirates staff can be contacted by telephone or email and will do their best to get back to you as soon as possible, before or after sessions.

In addition, Jolly Pirates has a very active website. The website will contain a parent's only section which you will be given a password for. Contained in this section is a private gallery updated with pictures from Jolly Pirates sessions. You will only receive the password if you sign up and your child's photographs will only appear if you sign up for the private gallery. Also, newsletters, copies of the monthly plans and announcements will be uploaded for you to view in our 'news' section.

Parents are also able to keep up to date with their child's progress and involvement throughout Jolly Pirates. This is using the seesaw app, our private gallery on our website and tapestry. Tapestry allows you to view your child's learning journey and recorded observations throughout the year, which also show which aspects within the 6 areas of the curriculum have been observed.

Links with other settings and organisations

We work alongside and have good relationships with other nursery schools in the local area, we discuss aspects such as planning, child led learning and observation techniques. We work hard to maintain the same high standard as other local settings.

We also have involvement with the Early Years Organisation. An early years specialist works alongside staff in Jolly Pirates by visiting them throughout the year in session to observe, give advice and support staff in training. Staff also attend cluster training throughout the year; this is alongside other funded place pre-schools and is led by the early years specialist.

Trips and outings

In Jolly Pirates we like to develop learning through trip and outings experiences. Each month Jolly Pirates provides your child with either a trip outside the

setting or a visit from an organisation to come to session. We promote the projects through these trips and visits continuing to develop children's learning and knowledge.

Some of the organisations we have used are;

- Debutots (imaginative role play, stories and dance)
- Vets
- World of Owls
- Tots pots
- Lisburn fire station
- St. John's Ambulance Service
- Dentist
- Local PSNI community team
- Pond Park Nursing home
- Tesco's and Lidl's
- Dobbies
- Library
- Castle Ward
- Linen Centre
- Boogie Beat
- Little Stars NI
- Christmas concert
- Mother's (female relative) day/ Father's (men's relative) day stay and play
- Santa visit (including a gift for your child).

We are continually looking for exciting new trip ideas and visits from professionals e.g. people who help us. We also enjoy having any parents that can volunteer to take part in a visit or accompany us on a trip.

We also take part in fundraising days for Mencap, Children in Need, Christmas Jumper Day and Rainbow day.

Early Years Media Initiative for children - Respecting Difference Programme

Jolly Pirates Pre-school implements the media initiative for children; you may have seen the advertisements on television. The media initiative promotes an understanding among children to respect differences we all may have. The children really enjoy this programme and get the opportunity to take one of the characters home for a weekend of fun! For more information on the programme visit the Early Years Organisation website.

Your child's progression

All three of the staff work closely alongside all the children. When your child begins Jolly Pirates, they will be assigned a key worker. This staff member will observe your child's progression, carry out your parent/ teacher interview and create your child's progress reports. The principal leader works alongside each key worker in reviewing and planning for your child's progress. However, we are here to speak to you at any time about your child's progression, their development and their needs. Reports are sent home regularly throughout the year and we will also have the opportunity for parents' sessions or evenings which you will be invited to attend. If at any time in your Jolly Pirates year you would like to request a meeting, all you have to do is ask and we will arrange a suitable time.

Snack time

We follow the 'Healthy Eating' guidelines from the Department of Health. They promote healthy snack guidelines including suitable food types and amounts for snack time. During snack your child will have the opportunity to become self sufficient in pouring their own milk or water and lifting their snack food from the 'buffet style' layout and putting an amount on their plate, promoting maths

and counting. It is a great skill to become more independent and ready for primary one.

Wrap around care

As Jolly Pirates is based on the premises of Jolly Rodgers day nursery, we are fortunate to be able to provide wrap around care options for your child if needed. Wrap around care options are available for your child with both the morning and afternoon sessions. Jolly Rodgers is open from between 7.30am - 6pm, Monday to Friday. When Jolly Pirates is closed for term-time holidays, if your child is in a full day wrap around care, Jolly Rodgers can provide holiday cover by attending Jolly Rodgers pre-school.

Wrap around care can be provided through the following options;

- Breakfast club
- Lunch club
- Afternoon club
- Full day wrap around care (your child will attend their Jolly Pirates session for $2 \frac{1}{2}$ hours.)

A benefit of any full day wrap around care (between Monday - Friday) is a discounted rate off your Jolly Rodgers monthly bill. This rate is set by the Education Authority.

If you wish to enquire in more detail about wrap around care please speak to Nicola McDonnell (Jolly Rodgers manager) on 02892 670988 or nicola@jollyrodgers.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read Jolly Pirates Pre-school prospectus and viewing our setting. We hope to see you and your child soon. If you require any more information please do not hesitate to ask, we are here to help with any aspect.

Many thanks,

Jolly Pirates team.

