



Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the Parent Feedback survey. The response rate from parents was very similar to last year, with 20 questionnaires being completed. This represents approximately 51% of the families using the pre-school during the 2016-2017 academic year.

After analysing and collating the responses, we are pleased to inform you that we have had an overwhelming positive response as to how satisfied you are with the level of care, communication & variety of curriculum your child has access to during each session they attend. 100% of you believe we have a happy and inclusive atmosphere, with your children happy at the pre-school.

There were a few ideas, concerns and questions which we will focus on in this letter, but if you wanted to see the breakdown of responses per question, then do let Natalie know and we will happily share them with you. Whilst it is not possible to respond to every single comment left, we would like to reassure you that they have been read by all the staff and committee, and that we have taken onboard your suggestions and done our best to address them at the setting.

Please do get in touch if you have any further questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Mother Goose Pre-School

Quality of Care & Support

Children's interests & supporting areas for growth

At Mother Goose we use primarily use a method called 'in the moment planning'. Rather than plan activities in weeks in advance, we capture the child's current interests at that particular time, and interact with the child to build on what the child is already doing to extend their learning in other areas. We observe the child through their play – it is child led and 'real time', and will bring out new activities and games depending on what we have observed. We use Tapestry to then track your child's progress against the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, and your child's Keyworker will use this to identify areas in which they may need more support. Our daily 'core' provisions are set then up to offer the children the opportunity to grow in these areas, and supplemented with our 'in the moment' activities.

EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Curriculum follows the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Foundation Stage continues through the early stages of Primary school education and is made up of 3 prime areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development;
- Communication, Language and Literacy;
- Physical Development.

And four specific areas:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;



- Art and Design.

More information about the EYFS can be found on our wall display just on the right-hand wall as you come into the pre-school, or you might find this leaflet helpful:

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf

Additionally, all the staff are very happy to talk over the EYFS and how your child is progressing. Feel free to arrange a meeting at a mutually agreeable time (ideally at the end of the session) where we can go over the details.

Child Protection & Concerns

We take our role as in safeguarding our children very seriously, and our Child Protection policy is updated annually in line with changes in legislation and current advice. It is available to view (along with all our policies at the pre-school, and will soon be available to download from the website.

If you have any concerns about a child or the level of care provided in the setting, then we have several posters on the Parent display boards (both walls, just inside the gate), with information on how you can notify the relevant authorities. Concerns about the setting should be directed to:

- OFSTED - 0300 123 1231
- The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) - 01223 714 760

While concerns about a child can be directed to:

- NSPCC - 0800 800 5000
- Confidential Parent Partnership Advice Line for Cambridge - 01223 699 214

Snacks

At every session we offer a healthy snack, with children able to choose from at least 3 different options, which rotate daily. With the colder weather, we also aim to offer something warm such as toast or crumpets, alongside a choice of fruit and vegetables. Your child is also offered a choice of milk or water to drink.

We also try to link snacks to any special events being observed by other cultures, and welcome any suggestions of festivals or celebrations that you would like us to link to. A parent recently brought in a selection of French cheeses for the children to try, which was a great success!

Quality of Environment

Variety of Toys

2016-2017 was a fantastic year for fundraising, and we purchased the large pirate ship climbing frame for the garden, to enhance the outdoor provision we offer. With the remaining funds, we have purchased a number of new and unusual toys for the children, which they are absolutely loving! We have bought:

- 'Home-corner' units (cooker, cupboard, washing machine and sink)
- Large 3-piece wooden farm set
- Giant 'spinning top' for indoor and outdoor play
- Sensory basket
- Post Box
- A number of toys designed to enhance and develop hand-eye co-ordination and fine motor skills



- A giant 'weaving' tree
- 'Counting Cows' to help with number recognition and matching

We are regularly assessing toys to see if they have seen better days, and gradually removing them from rotation. We hope to continue to purchase new resources as funds allow, but as a charity we rely on the generosity of families to support our fundraising events to help us achieve our aims.

Quality of Management, Staffing & Communication

Parent Notice Board & Daily Communication

We have really struggled with the outside notice board last term, despite attempting to fix it on numerous occasions, and this was noted in many of the responses to the survey. We therefore purchased a brand-new whiteboard which is updated daily with important notices, information about the activities & games the children have played, and the snacks they have been offered.

It is worth mentioning that we are always happy to discuss what your little one has been up to and everyone will be able to talk about your child in the absence of their keyworker. Please do approach any member of staff who will be happy to talk!

We would also like to point out that the Parent Information display boards on the walls to the right and left and you enter the pre-school have been recently updated and refreshed. Here you will find dates of upcoming events, information about how to use Tapestry, an explanation of the EYFS, Health & Safety information, as well as child protection advice. Please do take the time to have a look on your way in or out!

Tapestry

Throughout their time at Mother Goose Pre-School, the staff will make records and observations of your child's progress against each of the 3 prime and 4 specific areas of the EYFS using Tapestry. For each of these areas, we categorise your child as 'emerging', 'developing', or 'secure' within an age bracket. Tapestry is only updated when we have an observation that links to a particular area, which means that there may be times when you don't get as many updates as you might expect. As your child progresses and becomes 'secure' within their developmental age bracket, the observations will naturally be less, until the point at which they begin to 'emerge' into the next.

Whilst we will always provide opportunities for children to extend in new areas, it is all child-led and as such, follows their own pace of learning. Alongside Tapestry, each keyworker will keep a written record of what a child is interested in and possible areas for extension, and we will structure activities against this.

Please do not be concerned if you do not see many observations in their account – it does not mean that your child is not being observed, supported or developed! However, we are happy to meet with you at any time to discuss their development in more detail. Please do ask.

Final Thoughts

Sand Pit

We had a few comments about whether the sand in the sand-pit is builder's sand, and we would like to re-assure you that we purchased 'play sand' from Madingly Mulch. They have confirmed that this is what was delivered and is being used. We have fed back to them that some parents have noticed staining of clothes and skin, and this is being looked at with the supplier.