

Romsey Mill Playgroup Information



updated November 2011

Dear Parents

We are delighted to be able to give you this prospectus for Romsey Mill Playgroup. We are committed to ensuring that our Playgroup provides a happy and caring environment so that each child can realise its full potential.

We were very pleased that our last Ofsted inspection (March 2008) received 'good' in the quality and standards of the care and the quality and standards of the nursery education, which we continually strive to improve. The report is available on the Ofsted website and in Playgroup. We have again successfully completed our Early Years and Childcare Quality Framework.

Each year Romsey Mill Playgroup continues to expand and develop. Our Playgroup will be open MONDAY—FRIDAY each week during term time. We also have a lunch club until 1pm, for Playgroup children, on Mondays and Fridays.

Changes can be very exciting but can create unintentional uncertainty too. We do our utmost to keep everything as smooth as possible and continue to maintain a sense of being a caring Christian family, a place where young and old can feel safe and accepted.

Do not hesitate to contact any of the Playgroup team if you have any questions.

Rachel Matthews
Family Work Coordinator



INTRODUCING ROMSEY MILL PLAYGROUP

Romsey Mill Playgroup is a well established, flourishing Playgroup, which is registered with Ofsted (Early Years), and Cambridgeshire Early Years and Childcare Services. Our 'good' Ofsted report, with which we are very pleased, can be read on www.ofsted.gov.uk . The youngest age we accept children into Playgroup is 2½ years, if we have spaces. Please complete the application form in this prospectus. Our Admissions Policy gives priority to applicants who are regular users of Romsey Mill. We do have a waiting list and we will contact you by phone as soon as a place becomes available.

Romsey Mill Playgroup will be open on Monday – Friday mornings from 9.15am – 11.45am, during term time. We have a lunch club until 1pm on Mondays and Fridays only. Children will need to bring their own packed lunches. This is primarily for children who receive Early Years Funding but younger children will be able to access this at an extra cost.

PRICES

Non-returnable **registration fee £10** on acceptance of the offered place. Playgroup fees from September 2011 are **£9.50 for a core 2½ hour session** (9.15am—11.45am). If your child stays for lunch club the total cost is **£14.25**

We are able to apply for 2-year-old funding (called 'Free Twos') for families on specific benefits.

There are strict criteria for this. Please speak to Playgroup staff about this.

All Playgroup children are eligible for Early Years Funding the term ***after*** their third birthday. We will guide you through this process.



The children will be in the care of our registered, qualified and experienced staff at all times. They are offered a wide variety of activities, based on the children's interests, reflecting their diversity and encouraging their development. We are committed to children learning through play.



This is of paramount importance to us, and is the best way of helping the children to develop.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum that is offered at Romsey Mill Playgroup is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage and we do this through a wide range of activities to create a fun, stimulating and happy environment.

During an Ofsted inspection and for the annual Quality Framework, we need to show how we prepare, plan and fulfil the curriculum and this is done under the headings of

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Organisation



SIX AREAS OF LEARNING

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

concentrates on becoming a strong and healthy child, and includes:

- Treating living things and property with care
- Relating to other people by sharing, taking turns and forming relationships

- Respecting the needs and feelings of others and responding to cultural and religious events
- Becoming independent and using self-help skills
- Behaving in appropriate ways, developing self-esteem and a sense of what is right and wrong, and knowing why

Communication, Language and Literacy

concentrates on becoming a skilful communicator and competent learner, and includes:

- Talking and listening, using words to express thoughts and to convey meaning
- Joining in with rhymes, stories and songs
- Understanding and enjoying books, recognising their name, some letters and words, beginning to write

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

concentrates on becoming a competent learner, and includes:

- Using simple maths language to describe shape, size, position and quantity
- Using objects for sorting, grading and counting
- Being familiar with number rhymes and stories
- Recognising and understanding the use of numerals and becoming aware of how to add on and take away through practical activities
- Beginning to record numbers and use maths for problem solving



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

concentrates on becoming a competent learner and includes:

- Knowing about families, homes and significant events.
- Asking questions about how things work and why
- Using equipment and skills for cutting and building and using simple technology
- Observing and exploring the environment
- Understanding something of the natural world and observing change

Creative Development

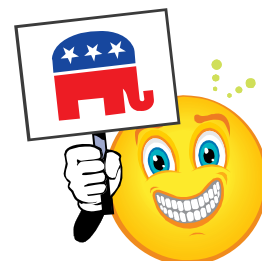
concentrates on becoming a competent learner, and includes:

- Using imaginative play to represent and express ideas, stories, feelings and experiences.
- Responding to and exploring ways of making music, sound and rhythm.
- Using paint, crayons, pencils, pens, dough, paper and card to create pictures and models

Physical Development

concentrates on becoming a healthy child and competent learner, and includes:

- Co-ordination, control, balance and strength, throwing, catching, pedalling
- Movement, running, jumping, hopping and skipping.
- Fine motor skills, handling tools and construction materials safely and with control



Each area has a number of 'Early Learning Goals' and 'Stepping Stones' to help the children along the way. More detailed guidance on these goals and how most children can achieve them by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (i.e. by the end of reception class) is available from the Playgroup team

Although our Ofsted report shows us to be 'good' we continually strive to develop our work. We really value any contributions parents can make to this, especially if this encourages and progresses the children's well being and development
and all this learning happens through play!

AND FINALLY...

- As a Christian Centre, we aim to introduce the children to the love of God through simple songs and stories, and by example.
- We keep a record of each child's progress in Playgroup and these are given to the parents at the end of each term to be kept as a memento. They are handed on to Nursery too.
- Our Policy Booklet is available from Playgroup staff at any time
- Parents are expected to help on a rota basis since we need to adhere to the adult: child ratios as required in The Children Act
- We would encourage parents to be involved with the Parent Forum that assists with programme development, maintenance of equipment and fun community activities
- Parents are always welcome to come and talk to staff if they have any queries or concerns.



For further details please contact:

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