

**Frizington Children's Centre
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Head of Centre Janet Farebrother

School Secretary Alison Millburn

Chair of Governors Gwynneth Everett

Welcome to Frizington Children's Centre

Introduction

This short booklet is intended to provide you with a summary of what we offer to families and children and to give you information about some of the extra services we offer alongside nursery education and childcare.

When you have had a chance to look through the information and have decided to use some of the services described, please contact us again for more detailed information.



Our Vision for Frizington Children's Centre

We will provide appropriate support and services to all children aged between 0 to 5 years, working together with other agencies.

We will create, with our partners, a Children's Centre which is the hub of a community network.

Our Values

We will offer support to all families regardless of their social, economic and demographic background.

We will take an holistic approach to providing support for families as a whole unit.

Our Principles

We will be well organised, employ well trained staff and provide high quality services.

We will provide user friendly information for families, provide a friendly point of contact; listen and respond to individual needs.

We will develop training and learning opportunities for families and establish and maintain links with other professional services.



What is available at Frizington Children's Centre?

Summary

We aim to support the learning and development of each child by providing an integrated, balanced, broad and stimulating curriculum. At present we do so through three categories of services; nursery education, educare/childcare and extra activities. These are described briefly below. (For more detail please refer to the Centre's prospectus)

Nursery Education

The Centre is also a local authority nursery school, offering five half day sessions of free education from the term after the child's third birthday. The school employs two qualified nursery teachers who lead a team of senior teaching assistants.

The foundation stage curriculum is offered to the children in a lively and creative environment with plenty of access to the outdoors.

The nursery sessions run between 9.00am to 11.30am and 1.00pm to 3.30pm. In order to provide continuity for our children they usually start with an afternoon session and then transfer to the morning in subsequent terms. They will spend all their time in the nursery sessions with the same members of staff.



Educare

These services are for children who already of nursery school age. They run before and after school , for 2.5 hours either morning or afternoon and in the school holidays. The opening times are as follows;

Breakfast Club 7.30am - 9.00am

Lunch Club 11.30am –12.30pm (11.45am for afternoon nursery children)

Educare 9.00am –11.30am and 12.30pm—3.00pm

Teatime Club 3.00pm—5.30pm

Holiday Club 10.00am to 4.00pm each holiday, except Christmas and for two weeks in the summer.



Childcare 0 to 3years

All childcare services for this age group take place in the new extension to the nursery school. This has been purpose built to provide for this age group. It has a large play room which is divided up into two areas, for babies under two and toddlers up to three years old. There is also a sleep room, laundry and changing room, a new kitchen and secure outdoor play area.

All the children's meals are prepared and cooked on the premises and we prided ourselves on providing all our children with freshly cooked healthy food throughout the day.

The staffing ratios for our childcare services are one adult to three babies and one adult to four-children over two. All our staff are experienced and qualified to level three.

All the activities planned for this age group are based on the Birth to Three Matters Framework and staff will work in partnership with parents to ensure that children's developmental needs and interests are shared.

We are open from 7.30am until 5.30pm so you are welcome to choose which times will suit you best. Breakfast, lunch and tea will be provided, together with mid morning and afternoon snacks.



Extra activities for all age groups

At Frizington Children's Centre we value the contribution of all our parents and carers as we recognise that they are the first and continuing educators of their children . In order that we can work more closely with parents for the benefit of our children, we offer the following opportunities;

- **Story Sack making group**

The centre now has a large collection of Story Sacks for children to take home and enjoy with members of their family. If you are interested in joining this group, please ask a member of staff. Apart from thinking up ideas for new sacks and collecting the items together, there is also the weekly tasks of checking the contents and making sure they are ready to go out again. This group would welcome more volunteers, please enquire.

- **Toy Library**

Toy sacks can be borrowed for up to two weeks from this wonderful resource we have at the Centre. Sacks are available for the age range 2 to 5 years. If you would also like to get involved in helping to run the Library staff would be very grateful.



Let's Dance Group

This group is for parents and children from 0 to 5 years. You can also attend on your own for the yoga class. The session starts with a shared time for parents and children singing together with some dancing and games. Then the children move into a crèche, run by Centre staff and the adults have a relaxing yoga class, knowing their children are well catered for in the nearby crèche.

Let's Dance takes place on a Monday afternoon in the adjacent county primary school.



Future activities

Plans are also in progress to run the following activities;

Lunch Club and healthy eating group

Working more effectively with your child

Parents' support Group

Parents' Forum

Events organised by Health Visitors at the Centre

Various training events and courses



Staff responsibilities at the Centre

Lesley Savage - Foundation Stage Teacher

Lynda Bignell - Foundation Stage Teacher and Special Needs Co-ordinator

Joan Stones - Deputy for Childcare Services

Joanne Lewthwaite and Mandy Sharpe - Services for under 3s and Educare

