

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

Statement of Function and Purpose

Principal

It is the aim of our pre-school programmes in our facilities to provide safe, affordable, accessible, quality childcare and play opportunities. We hope to support single parents, working families and those in education/training.

Aim

Our aim is to provide sessional care at our facilities. Our programme is devised and facilitated by our Early Years Education Coordinator and we have a fantastic team of early years educators in every centre. Our team is passionate about childcare and are fully committed to fulfilling the needs our pre-school children.

Precious Childcare Daycare is delighted to be part of the Early Childhood Care and Education programme. For many of you, your child joining the ECCE class represents more than just a move from one room to another, or indeed, joining an early childcare service. It registers another exciting step along the road in the development of your child.

It is somewhat unbelievable to think that the baby whom you left with us a short while ago will now participate in an early childhood care and education setting which will help him/her to become more 'independent'.

Our programmes are child led and we have a wide range of creative and physical activities that children can tap into throughout our numerous sessions that will positively stimulate them both physically and cognitively while further assisting them in building their confidence and social skills in a more informal environment.

Our aim is to provide best practice activity programme ensuring that each child is catered for in accordance with their age, ability and interest.

Mission Statement

We believe that it is important to be clear about our aspirations for our Childcare Centres. All of our policies and statements should reflect our overall vision for the service we provide.

We want our centres to provide excellence affordable childcare in partnership with parents, that is inclusive, safe and secure while promoting each child's learning and development in a culturally rich and stimulating environment.

Ethos

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

Our early childhood care and education service is based on a strong value-based ethos. We believe that the values of acceptance, choice, planning, family, encouragement, routine and culture are central to the operation of Precious Children Daycare. These values are applicable to all stakeholders, parents/guardians/other care givers, children and staff. They promote a strong caring ethos which benefits us all but particularly your daughter or son.

Acceptance

They feel accepted and affirmed and where their diverse needs are catered for.



Choices

They can make and accept choices.



Planning

They can plan co-operatively, take turns and share resources.



Family

Links with the family and the wider world are affirmed and extended.



Encouragement

They are encouraged to learn with and alongside others.



Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

Routines

They can identify and feel comfortable with routines, customs and regular events.



Culture

Symbols and representations of their own culture are promoted and respected.

Toddlers Group – Ravensdale Park Facility Only

At this stage your toddler will gradually start to develop language skills, begin to understand and talk about the world around them and quickly progress their physical skills, as they become more confident walking, running and climbing.

Emphasis will be put on expanding vocabulary through songs, role play and storytelling as your toddler starts forming sentences in everyday life. Indoor and outdoor activities are now becoming more interesting with a higher level of interaction, aiding the development of good communication skills.

Most importantly, our toddlers have fun!

By having fun and incorporating a play-based curriculum our toddlers development excels day by day. Activities such as; arts and crafts, baking, music, physical exercise and circle time is incorporated into the daily routine. As your toddler becomes more and more independent, our experienced carers will adapt the routine and activities to suit his/her emerging interests.

Toilet Training

Toilet training will be discussed with parents and implemented when the time is right for your child. We will work closely with you during this important stage in your child's life. Our group leaders will speak with each parent upon collection and discuss each stage of your child's day; meals, sleep times, nappy changing, activities and we will also fill you in on any interesting stories we must share about our day in crèche!

Pre- School Curriculum

ECCE Pre School experience are the years', where your child should be 'exposed to quality learning experiences in interesting, stimulating environments, building up his/her curiosity, perseverance, problem solving and interest in learning.' Our educators are skilled in providing that environment where it is not just about reading, writing and arithmetic, but one which strives to help your child become more 'independent'.

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

What is involved in the ECCE curriculum? Our team delivers an excellent Department of Education and Skills (DES) programme, developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), called Aistear. The curriculum exposes your child to the educational and care environment described above. This programme in turn is supported by a set of quality standards known as Síolta which helps to ensure the delivery of a quality early childhood care and education experience.

Statement of Intent

Our aim and ethos, weekly programme, curriculum and rewards are on full display in our facility and on our website.

In line with our aims and our ethos we discuss our weekly programme and activities, curriculum and rewards at our weekly age appropriate circle time.

We review all our policies annual and as when needed in line with operational standards review and changes.

Children for Whom Care is Provided

We provide sessions for up to 46 children during term time and up to 46 children during school holidays from the age of 2-4 years old.

The service will provide a friendly, fun and stimulating environment for all who attend irrespective of their culture, abilities or social status, while meeting the social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional needs of all the children and recognising the individual needs of each child. Children with special needs can be accommodated after consultation between parents, the Manager and Assistant Manager.

Staffing

Our pre-school programme is managed and operated by our team of qualified individuals with vast experience. Our team is reliable, approachable, suitably qualified and experienced staff, including a Manager, Assistant Manager, Administrator, Playleader, Playworkers and Relief Playworkers.

Staffing levels always meet the guidelines requirements set by TUSLA . All staff are garda vetted. The minimum staff ratio is 1:11 with 1 adult to 11 children for ECCE and 1:6 staff ratio for our toddlers. All are team members on duty will hold a current First Aid certificate. All staff receive induction training which covers Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. Staff receive regular supervisions and an annual appraisal.

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

Facility layout

Ravensdale Park Facility

We are situated in easy access to our renovated Facility Play & Learning Centre. Safety is promoted within the setting and our children are always supervised. We have use of a large and one medium sized bright room, for fun and games, craft activities and indoor play. The room leads directly off to another room and access to the outside, is an enclosed garden area which comprises of a multi-purpose grassed area housing multiple sensory activity section, willow den and several benches.

The children also have use of our rest period areas for calm relaxing times.

There are a suitable number of toilets available for use by the children attending and a separate toilet for use by the staff. There is a separate changing room area to facility our toddlers.

St Marys Facility

We are situated in easy access to our renovated Facility Play & Learning Centre. Safety is promoted within the setting and our children are always supervised. We have use of a large and one medium sized bright room, for fun and games, craft activities and indoor play. The room leads directly off to another room and access to the outside, is an enclosed garden area which comprises of a multi-purpose grassed area housing multiple sensory activity section, willow den and several benches.

The children also have use of our rest period areas for calm relaxing times. There are a suitable number of toilets available for use by the children attending and a separate toilet for use by the staff.

Facility offering

At our Pre School, our main objective is to create a fun, relaxing yet stimulating environment. We create a caring 'home away from home' environment where children can relax and feel comfortable after their day at school. It is a safe, age appropriate space where children can continue to develop their social, physical, intellectual and emotional skills. We cater for age group, classes and needs.

The preschool routine revolves around the children and ensuring that all of their needs are met, big or small.

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

Each preschool space consists a structured learning growth and learning area, a fun-filled activity area, a relaxing space and dining area. When children arrive at preschool, they get the opportunity to unwind and have a chat with their friends and leaders, before settling into our child lead curriculum which we then proceed into free time, meal or snack time, mindfulness and relaxing time, outside activity or free play. During our snack time we can practise our social engagement, table manners whilst learning about foods.

Fun-filled Activities & Clubs

Our room are filled with numerous activities and are organised into different areas of interest and we regularly update our rooms to reflect the children's favourite activities. From a dress up area to a dedicated imagination corner, there is something for everyone at preschool. Our preschool team communicate regularly with the children about their activities and consider their feedback and suggestions. Our aim is to create a space that children love to spend time in – so who better to give us this guidance.

A period every day is 'clubs day' and the children can choose from a range of extracurricular activities such as baking, craft, sensory play or a topic of interest to do. Each Term we organise different activities such as themed events, obstacle courses, sports or an interest activity day.

During school holidays our programme changes to full day camps with a new and exciting theme each week.

Opening Times Routine

Ravensdale Park Facility

The Preschool sessions start from 9am – 12:30pm and 1.30pm till 5.00pm Monday to Friday interim time and 8.15am till 6.00pm Monday to Friday in Holiday Club.

We close all Bank Holidays. The Club **may** also be closed the last week in August and over the Christmas and New Year period. These weeks will depend on school opening /closing dates and if maintenance is necessary to the Centre.

St Marys Facility

The Preschool sessions starts from 9am – 12:30pm Monday to Friday, interim time and 8.15am till 6.00pm Monday to Friday in Holiday Club.

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

We close all Bank Holidays. The Club **may** also be closed the last week in August and over the Christmas and New Year period. These weeks will depend on school opening /closing dates and if maintenance is necessary to the Centre.

Language Used

The preschool is English speaking, but we will endeavour to converse (if at all possible) with the children in whichever language they are comfortable with, by accessing support and guidance.

We do celebrate diversity and equality and do culture days and week through the preschool term using learning different languages as one of our topics.

Activities Offered

A wide variety of activities are offered, outdoor play, physical play, creative and imaginative play and opportunities for free play which will all enhance a child's development. Some activities will be planned weekly by playworkers with themes and craft ideas used from the children's feedback. Children are encouraged to participate in the planning and evaluation of activities and offer ideas for equipment when it is being purchased.

Animals

No animals are kept on the premises.

Visiting workshops may occasionally introduce the children to a variety of living things.

Terms & Conditions

The terms and conditions for our setting is explained in the Parent Pack, Policies and Procedures and our Contract / Registration forms which include fees, booking arrangements and notice of termination. A Contract / Registration form must be completed before a child can attend. Full details of our terms and Conditions can be review with any client or potential client.

Admissions Policy

Our Preschool is open to any age appropriate child. We have an admissions policy which can be obtained from the Manager.

Arrangements for Complaints and Concerns

Statement of Function and Purpose for Our Toddler and Preschool

Services

We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism from parents/carers and children to help us maintain a high-quality service. Please speak to the Manager if you would like to make any suggestions. (A suggestion box is always available in the reception area). From time to time a parent/carer may find it necessary to follow the complaints procedure, copies of which are available from the Manager.

Arrangements for Dealing with an Emergency

Our preschool has a comprehensive emergency procedures which are site specific. Details can be found in the Parent Pack, Contract / Registration forms or Fire & Emergency Policy. If for any reason we need to make urgent decisions (e.g. school/club closed due to bad weather, no heating, all staff off sick) the Manager will contact all parents will be informed as soon as possible.

Policies, Procedures & Operational Plan

All our facilities Policies, Procedures and Operational Plan are reviewed and updated as necessary and are available for parents to read. Please see the Manager.

This Statement of Purpose is reviewed and updated as necessary and/or in line with any changes in regulations. Any changes to the service are notified to TUSLA and the parents/carers.

Privately run service:

This type of service is privately owned and managed by individuals. We are registered with all government agencies and can accommodate your access to funding for your child's grant eligibility to assisted you with fees.