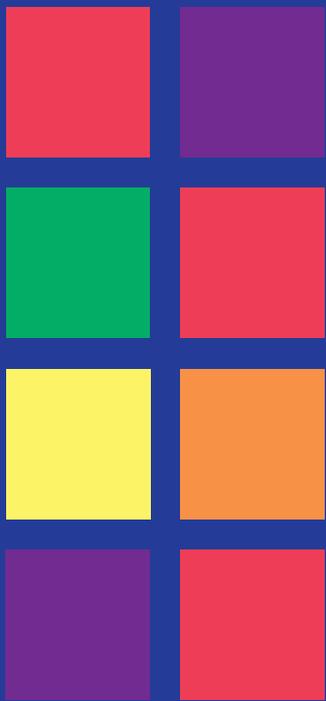


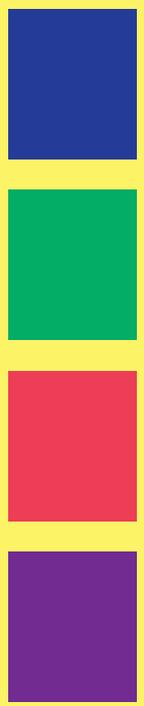
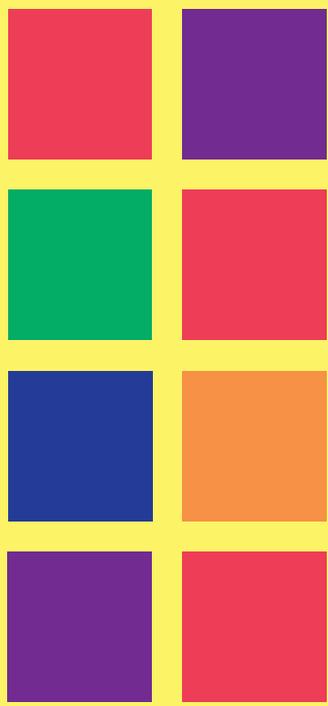


Pond Park Nursery School

Quality Education in a Quality Environment

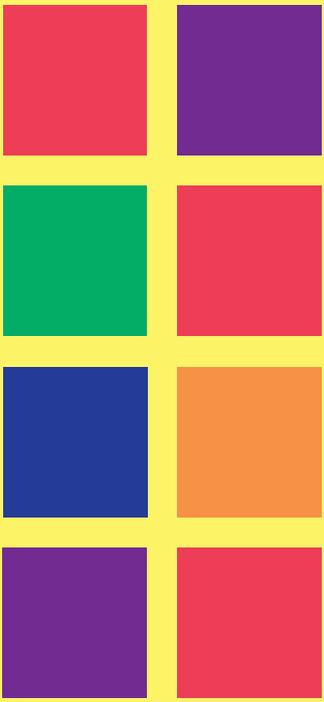






Welcome to Pond Park Nursery School







Mission statement / Aims of the School

Our aim is to create an environment where each child will grow in confidence and self-esteem and develop a positive image of himself or herself as a learner. We aim to develop each child's natural curiosity, imagination and creativity, and to provide opportunities to develop skills, knowledge, attitudes and values. Our focus is to allow each child to develop at his or her own pace and to build upon previous learning that has taken place.

Pond Park Nursery School is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Years Education; we believe that education is a process, developed by the child's interaction with his or her immediate world. It is through playful learning indoors and outdoors that each child is encouraged and stimulated to explore, to experiment and to discover, using his or her own unique learning style and interests. Working in partnership with parents, carers, Governors and other outside agencies we aim to provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment where each individual child can develop a life long love for learning.

The Importance of Playful Learning

While your child is at nursery school most of his or her time will be spent engaging in playful learning. Play, in all its aspects, is the principal means of learning for any young child. Consequently your child will experience the curriculum through a progression of broadly based playful learning activities.

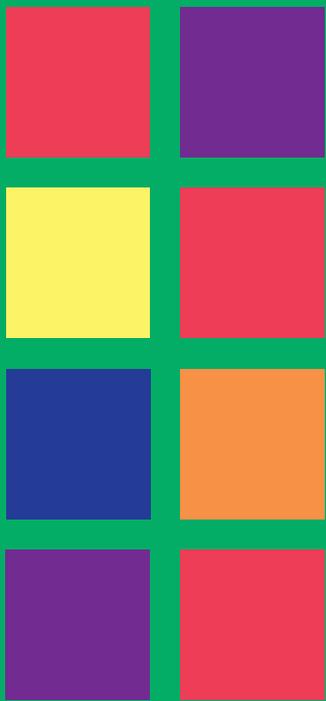
Social Development – includes the development of:

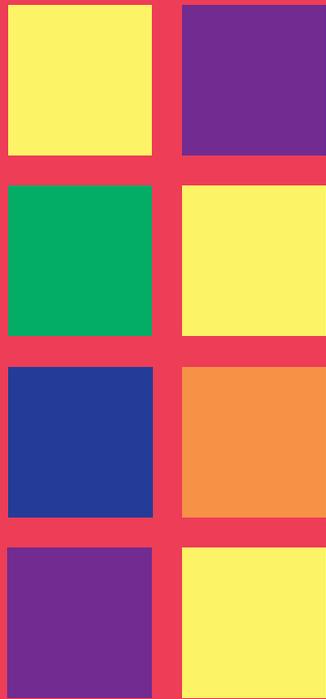
- friendships
- the ability to interact with peers and adults
- the appreciation of the needs and rights of others
- independence and a sense of responsibility.

Emotional Development – includes the development of:

- self-confidence, self esteem and a sense of achievement
- self-discipline and learning to self regulate individual emotions
- the ability to cope with fears, anxieties and difficult experiences
- the ability to express feelings and well being in general.







Physical Development – includes the development of:

- co-ordination of physical movements and spatial awareness
- hand and eye co-ordination
- fine manipulative skills
- ability to 'have a go' and 'take risks'.

Intellectual Development – includes the development of:

- concentration and listening skills
- natural curiosity, questioning, observation and exploration
- language, ie vocabulary, fluency and the use of language, perception of language in the written form and the enjoyment of stories, poems and songs
- basic mathematical and scientific concepts
- creative and aesthetic expression through various media.

The following types of play will be encouraged through a creative use of resources both inside and outside.

Dramatic and Imaginative Play: - to encourage the playing out of roles and exploration of emotions and ideas. To help your child develop an awareness of others and their needs. To increase self-confidence and self-esteem.

Constructive and Creative Play: - to develop imagination and creativity, the ability of make choices and decisions and to develop the ability to plan and organize thoughts and ideas.

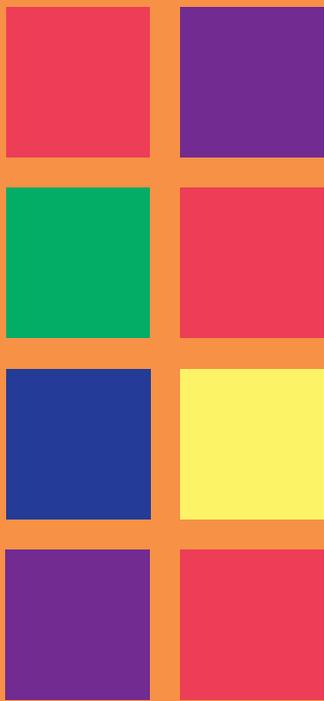
Functional Play: - to develop fine and gross motor skills. It is recognized that all children need to develop the ability to play in different ways – alone, beside or with others (solitary, parallel, co-operative). Opportunities for different styles of play will be provided and will

include activities for one child, pairs of children, and small or large groups of children.

At Pond Park Nursery School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum which will challenge and motivate every child. Activities are designed to develop skills, knowledge and understanding across all six areas of the Northern Ireland Pre School curriculum as listed below:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- Physical Development and Movement.





Documentation

Copies of all of the School's current policies on matters such as Safeguarding, Child Protection, Health and Safety, Pastoral Care, Special Educational Needs and others are available on request from the School office, should you wish to read or receive an individual copy.

Settling in Procedures

The settling-in period is a very important time in the Nursery School and we believe it is vital that we establish a good relationship with each individual child during the first few weeks of the school year. Introducing the routines of the nursery school day in a smaller group has proven to be the most efficient means of supporting the settling in process for each child and helps staff and children really get to know each other.

On the first day your child will only be in school for a short time and it is important that you stay with him or her during this time. The time in school will be extended throughout the month of September and we will guide you as to what is best for your child.

Please do not worry if your child takes a while to settle in, as each child will react differently to his or her first experience of school.

After the initial short two sessions we will begin each day playing outdoors regardless of the weather. At the start of the session we would ask you to help your child put on an outdoor suit and then go through into the 'shared area' where the wellington boots are kept. Once you have helped your child into his or her boots please go outside into the play area where the staff will be waiting.

What to Wear

The Nursery uniform is both informal and practical to encourage children to be as independent as possible. School sweatshirts and other uniform items are available from McCalls in Lisburn. We also have a number of second-hand sweatshirts available for sale for £3 - available from the school office. Jogging bottoms with elasticated waistbands and shoes with Velcro fastenings are most suitable to encourage independence with dressing.

Pond Park Nursery School operates an outdoors first in all weathers policy and we provide waterproof suits for the children to wear. We would ask that you provide your child with a pair of Wellington boots for outdoor play and a complete change of clothing, including underwear and socks. The spare clothes are to be kept in school for use in the event of a toilet accident or over-enthusiastic water play! We provide a bag for these items which will hang on your child's peg throughout the year. Please also remember to label all items of clothing with your child's name.





Parental Involvement

At Pond Park Nursery School we recognise that close links between home and school are invaluable at all stages of education, but are particularly important during the nursery school year.

We welcome and encourage parental involvement in the life of the school and offer opportunities for you to share time in the classroom with your child during this important stage in your child's development. If you would be interested in helping out in school from time to time by assisting with snack, reading a story, gardening or baking with the children or even talking about your hobby or job please let us know.

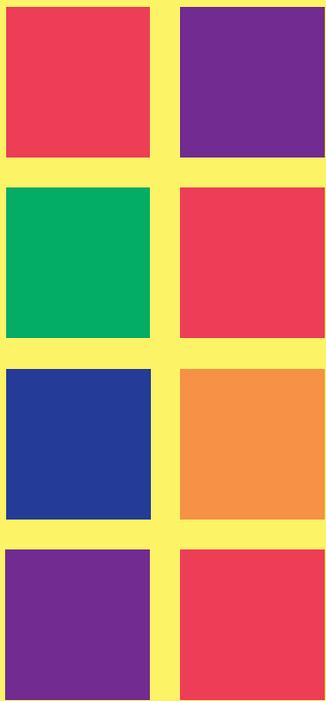
School Fund

We rely on the Nursery School fund to provide a wide range of playful learning experiences that enhance and enrich the curriculum. The many extras financed by the Nursery fund include a healthy daily snack, bus outings, numerous educational visitors and workshops in school, special celebrations, gardening items, and additional indoor and outdoor resources.

The Nursery fund is payable on a monthly, termly or yearly basis and details will be shared with you at our information session.

Children attending the Full Time session also have school dinners each day starting in October. The current cost is £12.50 per week for dinners and this is payable each Monday. Payment envelopes are provided and all monies should be placed in the Parent Postbox in the hallway. Many thanks.





School Hours

The school offers places to a total of 78 pupils in three sessions: one full time session and two part time sessions. The times of the sessions are as follows:

- Full Time: 8.50am - 1.20pm**
- Morning Session: 8.45am - 11.15am**
- Afternoon Session: 12.10pm - 2.40pm**

It is important that you try to collect your child on time as this avoids distress. If for any reason you are going to be late to pick up your child please telephone the school so that we can reassure your child.

Also please make sure that your child knows who is collecting them at the end of the session and let us know if there is a change in arrangements. No one under the age of 16 will be permitted to collect a child from school.

Absence and Illness

If your child is ill or unable to attend school for any reason it would be greatly appreciated if you would notify the school office. Please do not send your child to school if he or she is unwell and keep them at home for at least 24 hours until the sickness is passed.

How Can you Help?

Talk positively about Nursery with your child and get them excited about the year ahead.

Encourage them to become independent in some key areas such as –

- Dressing and undressing
- Putting on and taking off coat
- Washing and drying hands
- Changing boots and shoes
- Using the toilet
- Helping to tidy up and care for belongings
- Sharing and taking turns
- Using a knife and fork

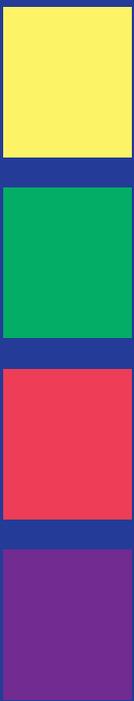
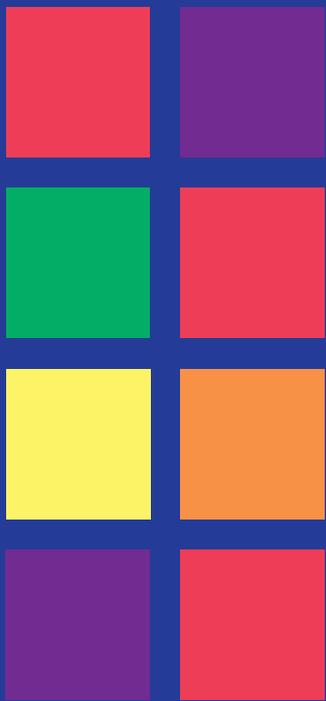
You are your child's first and most important educator and so we would encourage you to take an active interest in all aspects of Nursery life.

Please share information about your child with us so that we can meet individual needs

We will keep you informed about your child's progress, both informally through daily contact and more formally through termly Parent / Teacher consultations and end of year transition reports. Remember it is a partnership and together we will do the best for your child.

We hope this information booklet has answered many of your questions regarding your child's introduction to Nursery and if you have any other queries please do ask. We know that your child will have a rewarding and positive experience at Pond Park Nursery School and we are looking forward to a happy and fun filled year ahead!







Pond Park Nursery School

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