

Pre-school AGM 15th October 2015

Welcome to our AGM. This year rather than my usual brief overview of what your child has been up to with us, I thought it might be insightful for you to hear about those experiences from a child's perspective. As you have already watched the DVD that Margaret put together you can see that your children are very busy and engage in many different play experiences on a daily basis. These are all linked to the Early Years Foundation stage that your child is now part of and will continue in until they finish their first year at school. Your child's learning is broken down into 7 areas of learning and development, 3 Prime areas and 4 specific areas. We have further information about each area and how this information is collected and recorded by a keyperson once your child starts with us at pre-school. There is also information around the room and staff will be available after the meeting to discuss any points further.

So I would like you to join me as we meet Sarah a fictitious child who's going to share with us a typical day at Needingworth Community pre-school

Hello, my name is Sarah and I've been coming to pre-school for a term now and I really enjoy it. In the morning I come into the huge playground with my Mummy and sometimes my Daddy and I can feel a little shy when I see all those big children running around and it can be a bit noisy to, I like to hold Mummies hand tightly until I spot the butterfly on the pre-school door and if the door is open I run in and find my peg. I'm getting good at changing my shoes and hanging up my coat. The cloakroom is always busy but that's ok because I see lots of my friends and we smile and say hello to each other. Suddenly the door opens and one of the ladies smiles at us and says "Good morning", . My name card in one hand and my lunch box in another I rush in and choose which number I want to be today. My favourite number is 3 because that's how old I am. Then it's kisses goodbye and I zoom into the kitchen to show my toy to my friends, maybe I will be special helper today and get a sticker. I used to feel a bit sad saying goodbye to my Mummy and Daddy but my keyworker would always take my hand and stay with me until I felt happy again. I like my key worker she knows which toys I like best and she will always help me use the bathroom or get ready for the outside. She also reads me stories and we do loads of exciting activities together, she even gets muddy outside and she isn't afraid of spiders like my mummy! I am special helper today "yippee", I get to sit on a chair next to the adult and I help do the weather board and put the children's toys into the box, I'm so lucky.

Time to play, the lady shows us a picture and tells us about some of the activities that we can play with. I'm going outside first so boots on and off I go. We've got bikes today and once my helmet is on I peddle around the playground hunting for different shapes and hidden numbers. I'm good at finding numbers and now I can find 1-5, 6 is still a bit tricky .I'm worn out after all that cycling so I'm off to get some water from inside. After my drink I see one of my friends and run over to see what he is doing. He's being a vet and I want to be one as well. He knows all about vets and tells me to put my uniform on and gives me a plastic toy that he says is a "Stethoscope", I remember what to do with it as I have seen "Topsy and Tim" using one in a book. I find a poorly rabbit and listen to its heart. He is ok so wrap him in a bandage and put him in bed, giving him a nice juicy carrot to eat. I love playing in the house and it is always different, sometimes it's like my home, or a café, I like it when it's a shop and one day we pretended to go to the moon and made our own rocket, that was fun.

There is always so much to do at pre-school and what is really good is that I can choose my own toys from the shelves and as long as I tidy up afterwards I can play with whatever I want. My key worker asks me if I want to help get snack ready for my friends I say " Yes" and remember to wash my hands before heading into the kitchen to get my apron on and have my hair put into a pony tail. I know that this is to stop hair getting in to the food, I'm learning about germs and do you know you can't see them they are so small. I help to chop the apples and watch out for my fingers knives are "dangerous", my Mummy says that. Once the table is set I get the snack picture and using a big voice I tell everyone it's "Snack time."

After snack it's more play, "Muddy Kitchen "and water play for me.one of the lades asks if I want to make a kite," yes please" I say, mine is going to be "Brilliant" I use loads of colours and put a really long tail on it, I'm getting better at using the scissors and cut all the paper on my own. Finding my name card I write my name onto the back of the kite, I like writing "S" it looks like a snake. Now I can go outside and fly it, "Whoopee" this is such fun. I run around waving my arm about to keep it in the air, loads of my friends are flying their kites and we laugh and chase each other. Oh it's tidy up time, Mrs. Gibson is holding up the picture to show us. We all start to put the toys away, what a lot of work, I'm so tired, good job we are having story next.

I get to sit on the chair and I choose the story today, "Whatever next" i love this story I wish could go to the moon in a space rocket. My key worker says we could make a rocket out of a box if want," yes please" I say and she tells me that we can do it after lunch club. Before diner we all sit with our keyworkers and some of our friends and look at our journals, I love mine, Mummy and Daddy put pictures in from home and I show them to my friends, I also look at all my work at pre-school and laugh at some of the funny faces i make in the pictures. I spot some pictures of my Daddy, he came in and we made a bow and arrow for Father's day, it was really cool. I also see me wearing my medal that got at sports day i did loads of races and we all got medals at the end, I had my photo taken with Olaf from frozen "I love him. "I can take my journal home when ever I want and I showed it to my Grandad and he sad I was very clever and busy at my pre-school, I told him" I love pre-school."

Lunch time, today I'm having pack lunch but sometimes I go home. I go to wash my hands and say good bye to my friends who aren't staying today. Then I find my lunch mat and open up my box with help from the adult. I 'm really hungry and gobble up my sandwiches, fruit and yogurt ,mummy put some carrots into but I don't like them much, the lady asks me to try some so I eat 2 and leave the rest she says "that's, O.K". And "well done for trying." I think mummy thinks I'm a rabbit!

After lunch new friends come and I choose to do some drawing and looks at some books for a while. We can't go outside for a little while as the school children are on the playground, sometimes they look in and wave at us, they all look really friendly and I wave back. I ask the ladies what we will do this afternoon and she said that we are going on the field to hunt for bugs, "great "I say I want to see the chickens and climb some of the trees. I'm going to be very busy this afternoon and I still need to build a rocket and go to the moon before Daddy comes to get me. I do love coming to pre-school, it's so much fun.

So I hope that this gives you a little taster of what your child gets up to when they are with us .Before I finish I would just like to share about the transition process that your child will go through before they begin school. This year the 2 afternoons that are set apart for the school leavers will be Monday and Thursday. These come into effect after Christmas and I would encourage you to ensure that your child is booked into one of these sessions if they are going to start school in September. As a setting we recognise the importance of a positive transition for your child, whether it be starting or leaving pre-school.

Therefore as your child prepares for school we work closely with Mrs. Harland, the Foundation teacher, in ensuring that each child is ready for this next step. This includes visits into school as part of a small group with a pre-school practitioner for about 1 hour roughly once a fortnight. This allows your child to become familiar with the new setting, teachers and play environment. Those children remaining in the setting are encouraged to engage in their own self-initiated play and to build on their friendships and cooperative play. This process continues until the end of the summer term upon which each child will have become familiar and confident in their new setting and come September the move into school is a positive and exciting new experience. This year we were once again praised by school for how well the children were settling and ready to learn. This area of our practice was also marked "Outstanding" by Ofsted in our recent Ofsted report, and has been recognised as one of our strengths over many years.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to myself or my team please do so either after the meeting or catch us in pre-school, during one of your child's sessions. Thank you all for your ongoing support to us as a setting and I would particularly like to thank Michelle and the Committee for the many hours of hard work and effort that they put in on a voluntary basis to make this pre-school the positive and Outstanding organisation that it is.

Thank you for listening.

Dawn Gibson