

Positive Steps Pre-school vs Primary School Nursery

Pre-School

What will my child learn at Pre-school?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Areas of Learning.

This is delivered through a wide variety of methods, with play being an underpinning feature. This approach is endorsed by the Department for Education and Skills and reflects the recommendations of the Qualifications and Curriculum Association.

How flexible are the attendance schedules?

Continuous education and care is available throughout the day, if parents require it.

How many staff will there be in the room?

In Pre-schools, there is a ratio of one staff member for every eight children.

What training will the staff have?

Positive Steps Pre-school staff are experienced and trained to deliver the Foundation Stage Areas of Learning. Some are qualified teachers and others have undertaken an ongoing programme of professional development through the Early Years Development Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

Nursery Nurses are qualified to NNEB, BTEC or NVQ3 standard and have experience of working with children aged up to five years. Nursery Nurses may be supported by Nursery Assistants.

Who is responsible for inspections?

OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) inspections are carried out every six months to two years, depending on the inspector's recommendations.

In recent years, schools have also had access to specialist training in order to deliver the Foundation Stage Areas of Learning.

Primary School Nursery

The Early Years Foundation Stage Areas of Learning.

In a more formal school environment, there may be constraints on the breadth of opportunities for learning through play for very young children.

Parents will need to make alternative childcare arrangements outside of school hours.

The ratio can vary, although it can be as high as one teacher for 30+ children. Sometimes there may also be a classroom assistant present.

The teacher is experienced in working with children aged between four and five years. Some schools may also have a qualified Nursery Nurse on site. Classroom assistants do not need to have any qualifications.

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Positive Steps Pre-school

What will the physical layout and equipment be like?

All our pre-school rooms offer a wide range of resources set out in an attractive and varied way. They always include sand and water, Small World toys, construction toys, a book corner, equipment for role-playing, maths, science, writing, arts and crafts and music.

There will also be an outdoor learning area and staff are flexible over its use in order to best deliver the Foundation Curriculum.

What will mealtimes be like for my child?

Lunch is seen as a 'learning experience'. It's an opportunity for children to develop their social, language and vocabulary skills, as well as communicate with other adults. At lunchtimes, children and staff will eat together in the Pre-school room.

What will mealtimes be like for my child?

At Positive Steps Pre-school, relationships with parents are seen as essential to success. Staff are available to talk on an informal basis during opening times, or a more formal appointment can be arranged.

An Open Door policy means parents are always encouraged to visit their children at the Pre-school. Children are introduced into the Pre-school room on an individual basis and parents are invited to visit and ask any questions.

During their time at Pre-school, each child is allocated a "key worker". This is the parents' first point of contact regarding their child's development and provides feedback on a daily basis.

Primary School Nursery

Most of the daily activities take place in the classroom. While the layout needs to conform to minimum standards, the equipment available inevitably varies from school to school, depending on resources.

Children may only go outside at "playtime". Physical exercise will generally be timetabled in and will take place in the school hall.

At lunch, dinnertime supervisors look after the children. At the end of the lunchtime period, teaching staff collect the children and take them back to the classroom.

Access to the school's teaching staff may be restricted due to the fact that there may only be one teacher for thirty children. However, specific appointments can be made to speak to a member of staff.