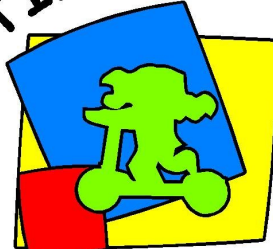


PLAYTIME



Day Nursery, Playgroup
and Out of Schools Club
ESKRA

Playtime Playgroup

Prospectus

Session Time

9:00-11:30am

Monday - Friday



"Playing is more than 'just having fun' it's the vehicle in which children learn."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Leaders Welcome	3
History and About Playtime	4-5
Pre-School Life	6
Our Aims and Objectives	7-8
The Importance of Play	9-11
Special Feature of Playtime Playgroup	12-19
Settling Into Playgroup	20-21
Parents Testimonials	22
Daily Routine (sample)	23

THE LEADERS' WELCOME

Welcome to Playtime, Eskra.

Playtime's Playgroup was established in 1989 and has evolved into two sessions 9am-11.30am, 5 days per week running simultaneously.

At Playtime's Playgroup we place a great importance on our relationship with you the parents/guardian. We feel it is important to establish a relationship of mutual respect by providing an opportunity to get to know each other during the settling-in meetings.

Playtime Day Nursery, Playgroup and Out of Schools Club is registered for a combined number of 169 places. At Playtime, the welfare of the child is paramount, and to ensure that each individual child gets the care that they require, and is assigned a key person. Playtime is a community business and a non-profit taking organisation. We are committed to providing high quality, professional, affordable childcare to the rural community.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to us or your child's key worker.

We hope this booklet is helpful and informative.

Colette McCaffrey
Childcare Manager

Donna Brannigan
Playgroup 2 Leader
& Pod Manager

Stephanie Coulter
Playgroup 1 Leader

HISTORY

On 30th January 1989, the first playgroup session started with 13 children. The playgroup was named 'Guys and Dolls' and operated in a small room (now currently a community meeting room).

In 2002 after tirelessly seeking grants and fundraising a purpose built childcare centre was completed. The launch of the daycare brought about the new name of 'Playtime' .

Playtime is a community business, with any profits continually being invested in the upgrading of resources and facilities.

At Playtime we strive to continually develop our service and reach the highest possible standard for the families relying on us.

In 2010, we secured funding to build an outdoor multi-use games area , which can be used by all ages.

2018, has seen further development of our facilities, allowing us to deliver the two pre-school sessions simultaneously.

ABOUT PLAYTIME

Playtime Day Nursery, Playgroup and Out of Schools Club is situated in the rural community of Eskra. We are a non-profit organisation, with a voluntary board of directors from the local community and parents. We are also a registered charity. Our aim is to provide a happy and safe environment where all children can grow and develop to their full potential. The programmes encourage pre-school education through structured play, out of school learning and a physically active & healthy lifestyle.

We aim to provide day-care and play opportunities in a safe and stimulating environment for children aged 5 months to 11 years, regardless of their religion, cultural or financial backgrounds. Whenever possible, we will provide for children in the community who have particular needs. We recognise the wide range of special needs of children and families in the community and will help and assist these families in whatever way possible, within reason.

PRESCHOOL LIFE

Playgroup has a similar format as a school year, and follows a curriculum, which is laid down and inspected by the Department of Education. Punctuality at the beginning and end of every session is of the utmost importance, for your child settling into play at the beginning of the session and likewise, at the end, it is important to collect your children on time as the staff need to be able to maintain accurate records and observations of the children for the EA. Also, unannounced inspections can take place throughout the year, it is for these reasons we place such an importance upon time keeping and attendance.

Regular attendance is also necessary to maintain their funded place.

Opening times

The playgroup runs **5 days** per week

Session time runs from 9.00am to 11.30am

Care can be provided for your child before and/or after their playgroup session. Prices will be provided during settling-in meetings.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To develop each child's independence
- To provide a safe, happy, secure, stimulating environment where children can learn through structured play
- To provide an environment where children can develop their social, emotional and physical skills
- To treat all people with equal respect, irrespective of their race, gender, disability or religion
- To offer support to, and work in partnership with parents/guardian and families, recognising the valuable contribution these people make to their child's learning.
- To encourage each child to reach their full potential through taking part in stimulating activities that foster social interaction, communication, self-confidence and self-worth.
- For every child to progress in all areas of develop-

ment through a stimulating, caring setting where children's independence, self-confidence and self-esteem can be promoted in a positive way.

- To give children the social skills to interact with other children and adults, to help them respect themselves and others and the environment in which we live.
- To encourage parents, staff, volunteers etc. to work together as a team to build and enhance the development of each child as an individual, with individual needs and requirements.
- To help children to develop sensitivity and respect towards others, multi-cultural awareness and a positive approach to learning, including participation in shared education activities.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Education and learning are life long processes that starts with the young baby cooing and the toddler babbling, to the pre-schooler beginning to express their ideas through role play, to the school child telling detailed stories in their writing. These early experiences at home and pre-school are the foundations of future learning.

Play is central to all children's learning. This has been recognised by the government and the department of education by prescribing a pre-school curriculum, where children are allowed to experience learning through their interests. The focus allows children to learn at their own pace, gain a positive image of themselves as learners, be able to cope with uncertainty and to learn through repetition, trial and error.

“Although children develop at different rates and their achievements may vary, all children should have opportunity to follow a curriculum that enables them to make appropriate progress in learning and to achieve their full potential.” (Department of Education for Northern Ireland)





The pre-school curriculum has been split up into 6 areas of learning for practitioners:

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

Planning and Observations

Staff ensure that the individual child's needs are met by observing children at play, reviewing and evaluating the curriculum regularly. Staff record the skills, knowledge and understanding each child has, and identify those which they have yet to acquire. It is from these observations staff can build upon and plan for each child's progress.

Examples of play:

Play Activity	Common misconception:	Some possible learning experiences
<p data-bbox="165 320 266 432">Writing and Drawing</p> 	<p data-bbox="343 320 479 347">'Scribbling'</p>	<p data-bbox="562 320 934 475">Beginning to learn how to control a pencil. This is an important one of many stages in the pre-writing process.</p>
<p data-bbox="165 619 277 646">Role play</p> 	<p data-bbox="343 619 510 730">'Just playing Mummies and daddies'</p>	<p data-bbox="562 619 949 730">Learning about and understanding the role of the parent and about family life.</p>
<p data-bbox="165 855 306 882">Water play</p> 	<p data-bbox="343 855 468 922">'Splashing around'</p>	<p data-bbox="562 855 945 1054">Developing an understanding for some early mathematical and scientific concepts (heavy, light, full, empty, floating, sinking).</p>
<p data-bbox="165 1179 300 1206">Digging Pit</p> 	<p data-bbox="343 1179 460 1246">'Making a mess'</p>	<p data-bbox="562 1179 938 1378">Exploring and investigation curiously in the natural environment. Developing gross motor skills (large muscles) -body control and co-ordination.</p>

PLAYGROUP'S SPECIAL FEATURES



The Playgroup Garden

Playgroup children have access to a bespoke outdoor play area, where they have learning opportunities in all six areas of the curriculum in a way which would not be possible indoors. This area is new to all children when they commence playgroup, as it is important to continually provide new experiences and challenges.





The Loft

Within the playgroup room there is a two tiered play area. This provides a new dimension to the playroom. Stairs provide a challenge and an opportunity to develop an awareness of safety. Upstairs in the loft there is quiet space to relax and share a book.



A Low Level Worktop

A low level kitchen worktop allows child to become involved with cookery activities.

It also facilitates independence and self-help skills at break time as equipment is at a level that is accessible to them.



THIS IS OUR PLAYGROUP 1 ROOM



This is our playgroup 1 room. We have lot things to play with and explore. There is a water tray, a sand tray, playdough, jigsaws, music corner, art area and lots, lots more.





This is our
playground.
We love to
go outside to
explore the
world around
us. We also
have a
garden,
where we
wear wellies
and
waterproof
trouser, its
muddy fun!!!

Toilet Area



Loft Area



THIS IS OUR PLAYGROUP 2 ROOM



This is our cloakroom. We hang our coats and bags on our own pegs.

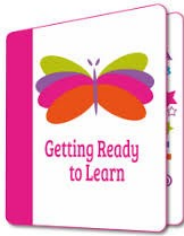
This is our playgroup 2 room. We have lot things to play with and explore. There's a construction area, a story corner, a home corner, dressing up, and lots, lots more.

Story Corner





Sensory Area



Getting Ready to Learn

Getting Ready to Learn focuses on raising parent's awareness of how they can support children's learning at home through-out the pre-school year.

We have been fortunate to benefit from funding to develop a home lending library including books for the Big Bedtime Read and resource packs for supporting progress in other aspects of development including gross motor and fine motor skills.

Other activities within this programme include parent/guardian stay and play sessions, workshops and The Big Bedtime Read.



The Media Initiative for Children (MIFC)

The MIFC Respecting Difference Programme is an intervention programme aimed at improving long term outcomes so that children, practitioners, parents and communities become more aware of diversity and different issues and positively change attitudes and behaviours to those that are different. It aims to make a respecting difference, approach an integrated experience for young children within the pre-school curriculum and is based on a meaningful partnership with parents.



Sharing from the Start

'Sharing From The Start' involves early years settings throughout Northern Ireland and the Southern Border counties forming cross-community partnerships. The children within these partnerships take part in joint curricular classes, improving educational outcomes and promoting good relations.

We have partnered with Denamona Pre-school, Fintona and McClintock Children's centre, Seskinore. In the past we enjoyed shared sessions exploring different areas of the curriculum at various locations such as Knockmany Forest, An Creagan Wild Woods, the Library and Fire Station. Children enjoy the experience of travelling by bus. The sessions are planned while taking into account the current cohort of children in each of the settings.

The Sharing from the Start project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

SETTLING INTO PLAYGROUP

At Playtime we have a carefully managed settling in process which is continually adapted and developed from our experience with children and families.

The settling in process takes the current format:

- **Playgroup places awarded by the**

Education Authority (Late April/early May)

Parent/guardians informed which setting their child has secured a funded pre-school place.

- Parents/guardians must accept their place in response to an email received from the Education Authority
- Parents/guardians will also need to accept their place with Playtime by completing a form and informing us of your intended Primary School and an expression of interest in day-care before/after the playgroup session.

From this information - your child will be assigned to either Playgroup 1 or 2 by Playtime Staff. A number of factors determine this decision such as; their primary school, boys/girls in each room and a number of other reasons.

- **‘Getting To Know You & Your Child’ Meeting**

(Late July and August)

Parents/guardians and children get to meet their child’s key person. This meeting will last between 20-30 minutes. Practical details such as uniforms and general playgroup information may be discussed. It is also an opportunity for staff to ask question and gain knowledge of your child’s personality and how best to settle them into playgroup.

- **Stay and Play Morning** (late August)

Parents/guardians and children come to visit and play for approximately an hour, this is also an opportunity to meet the full staff team.

- **The Playgroup year begins** Staggered Start - (last week in August & first week in September)

Children will be allocated days to attend playgroup during their first two weeks.

For more information check out:

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/education-works>



PARENT TESTIMONIALS

“My child is so happy at Playtime, she has all her wee friends here already, so it’s great I don’t have to up-root her.”

“I don’t need to worry about getting my child to and from playgroup while I’m at work as Playtime provides playgroup and day care all under one roof.”

“I was amazed how much my child learned throughout the (pre-school) year. Their confidence and independence really grew. They’ve been given a great start for primary school.”

“The staff are great, they really cared about my child being ready for starting school.”



Please be aware that we care for children in our centre who have a severe nut allergy. Therefore we would ask all parents to refrain from sending food in with your child as the consequences could be fatal. Thank You

PLAYGROUP DAILY ROUTINE

9:00am Meet and greet time

9:00-10:40 Free choice of play and structured activities

10:00-10:45 Break-time

10:45 Tidy time

10:50-11.15 Outdoor play

11:15-11:30 Rhymes and story

11:30 Home time



*This is an example of the daily routine and is subject to change daily depending upon the children's needs/ interests etc.



Financial Support

We accept the following financial support schemes
towards childcare costs:

- * Childcare Vouchers (closed to new claimants)
- * Tax-Free Childcare
- * Universal Credit - We are registered as a Child-care Provider with the Western Health & Social Care Trust and our Registration Number is: W000182

Manager: Mrs Colette McCaffrey

**Eskra Childcare Limited
167 Newtownsaville Road, Eskra,
Omagh, BT78 2RJ**

Phone: 028 8284 0868

WhatsApp: 075 4976 4790

E-mail: eskraplaytime@hotmail.co.uk

Charity No. XR94739 Company No. NI4497

www.eskraplaytime.co.uk

***Like us on Facebook & follow us on Instagram:
@eskraplaytime***