

Asterdale Nursery



“At the heart of every child is a unique genius and personality. What we should be doing is allowing the spark of that genius to catch fire, to burn brightly and shine.” - Michael Morpurgo

About Us:



At Asterdale Nursery we endeavour to make every child's unique learning journey an inspirational adventure. Your child's first experiences of school should develop their lifelong love of learning. Our curriculum offers children the freedom to explore, create, imagine and innovate. We believe that children are naturally curious about the world around them. We intend for children to learn how to lead their own learning and through sensitive enhancements, children will connect their new knowledge and understanding to their own interests and fascinations. We value highly the relationships we share with our families and our wider community.

The nursery spaces are set up as open plan workshop environments, enabling children to freely access the resources they require. This encourages children to move around independently making their own choices and decisions about their play and learning experiences. We believe that children learn best from following their own interests, having first-hand, hands-on experiences and the time to revisit and repeat aspects of their play, with the support of responsive adults.

At Asterdale Nursery our aim is to provide a safe, secure environment that is rich and stimulating and encourages children to develop autonomy and feel challenged. The atmosphere creates an emphasis on fun, enjoyment and the celebration of each child's achievements.

Our nursery is a place where all children can follow their interests and lead their own learning supported by staff. Staff observe children closely, intervene when appropriate, and carefully plan for future play possibilities.

We celebrate the uniqueness of every child, promoting their emotional, social, spiritual and physical well-being. Our intent is to immerse children in all elements of creativity, encouraging them to become inspired, confident, independent and motivated learners.

Whatever your child's current or future capabilities, we'll nurture their individual talents, curiosities and interests and start them off in the right direction. Your child will thrive in our nurturing, respectful environment, where wellbeing for children and their families is at the heart of everything we do.

Learning at Asterdale Nursery:



Our teaching is based around the concepts of kindness, friendships and relationships. Children are immersed in the principles of respect, tolerance and compassion. Understanding the richness of diversity enables children to connect from the heart and with an authentic view of themselves and others. We have a big emphasis on the Prime Areas of Learning, which underpin all further learning. We encourage the children to have their own ideas, develop perseverance and concentration skills and make links in their learning and in the world around them

We use the Early Years Foundation Stage EYFS (characteristics of effective learning, prime areas of learning and development and specific areas of learning and development) alongside supportive frameworks and assessment tools to plan appropriate learning and development experiences based on children's individual interests. We think carefully about how children engage with other people and their environment to support each and every child to be an effective and motivated learner. Staff observe how children use the resources and the spaces to plan further learning and development opportunities for all children.

Independently accessing resources in different areas of learning across continuous provision allows children to become effective decision makers, enhancing their play and learning experiences. These opportunities are planned and based on children's interests and curiosities at nursery and at home. Children are able to move between the learning environments, accessing all of the available resources. Should they choose, children can also go in the outside learning environment.

Continuous close working with families enables us to gain valuable information which then forms the basis of our planning and helps us to ensure that we are providing a range of appropriate and responsive play and learning opportunities based on the children's prior learning at home and in the setting.

During our nursery sessions, routines throughout the week include a wide range of activities and lessons which take place in both the indoor and outdoor environment to include:

- Specific curriculum target groups, eg maths and literacy-based group work
- Storytime sessions
- Music and dance sessions
- Forest school sessions
- Baking
- Snack time
- Craft

- Emotional well-being
- Language boost
- Speech and language development
- PSED work
- Squiggle while you wiggle
- Meditation and yoga

The phonics scheme that we use is Little Wandle. Take a look here:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/whats-included/foundations/>

Our maths scheme is White Rose Maths- Master the Curriculum

Take a look here: <https://masterthecurriculum.co.uk/nursery-maths-scheme/>

Asterdale Nursery Offers:



A close partnership with parents

Dedicated 'Stay and Learn' sessions for Parents/Carers

Valuable enrichment opportunities

A network of support for Parents/Carers

A named key worker for your child

Personalised learning

Consistent, high-quality teaching and learning for your child

A place for your child at nursery the term after their third Birthday (provided places are available)

Either 15 or 30 hours of funded education 5 days per week (term-time only). Sessions are allocated in 3 hour slots (for the 15 hour entitlement)

- 15 hours are offered over a 2 and a half days model, over 5 morning sessions of 3 hours or 5 afternoon sessions of 3 hours, Monday to Friday. However, we do offer some flexibility in order to meet the needs of our families (where capacity allows)
- 30 hours are offered over 5 days and can include wrap around care. Education and care given by a qualified teacher and highly skilled Teaching assistants.

Additional day-care sessions that can be purchased in addition to your funded entitlement.

Find out what our parents have to say about our Nursery:



"I've never seen my son this happy in the morning before Nursery. Thankyou so much for being patient with him, I'm so grateful"

"My son has settled in so well at Asterdale. All of the staff are so helpful. Thankyou"

"My child gets a flying start at Asterdale. Nothing is too much trouble. It's such a welcoming school".

"We love the Stay and Learn sessions. It is lovely to see my child playing and learning in the Nursery"

"My child learns so much every day at Nursery. Each day is different and full of new things."

"The staff always give me lots of information about my child to help at home. It's a great school to choose"

Why is good Nursery attendance important?



Even for very young children, there are positive benefits to be gained from regular attendance, whatever the weekly pattern of childcare or schooling. This includes not only coming to every planned session, but also being there on time. Benefits good attendance by children include the following:

Good habits

- It builds in young children the idea that getting up and going to nursery or school is simply what you do.
- Children who attend every planned session develop a feel for the rhythm of the week and gain a sense of security from some regular elements, even when the actual pattern or focus of their learning or activity may vary widely from week to week.

Secure relationships

- Young children find it easier to build and sustain a range of social relationships when they regularly attend their childcare setting, according to the pattern agreed with the family.

- For some families, particularly at times of stress, the child's regular attendance at nursery allows parents to get other things done and helps them enjoy spending time with the child when he or she is at home.

Self – esteem

- Children who rarely miss sessions at nursery or school and come on time are more likely to feel good about themselves. This is because they know what goes on and what to expect, feel more confident with the adults and the other children and have more opportunities to be valued and praised for their own special contribution.
- Children who regularly miss sessions or are generally late, can frequently experience a sense of having to try a little bit harder just to understand what is going on and what other children are talking about or doing.
- Regular attendance, on time, helps many young children to separate from their parents or carers at the start of the day and settle more readily into daily life in their nursery setting or school. Some children may need some flexibility when they first start attending to settle in but there should be a clear, time-bound plan in place to ensure the attendance patterns are normalised as soon as possible.

Useful Links:



We are partners with parents- find out more here: <https://birthto5matters.org.uk/parents-as-partners/>

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/overview-characteristics-of-effective-learning-and-areas-of-learning-and-development/>

A Parent's Guide to the EYFS:

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

School readiness:

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/272315/getting-ready-for-nursery-or-school-information-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/being-school-ready/>

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/5-10-years/starting-school>

Oral Health:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/babies-health-and-wellbeing/oral-health>

Safety for babies and young children:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/safety-babies-and-children>

Birth to five matters:

<https://birthto5matters.org.uk/information-for-parents/>

Why are nursery rhymes important:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/why-do-we-sing-nursery-rhymes/zdsyf82>

Tips for potty training:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/toddlers-1-3-years/learning-and-playing-1-3-years/potty-training>

NHS links:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/pre-school-3-5-years>

Behaviour:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/pre-school-3-5-years/caring-your-preschooler/challenging-behaviours>

Sleep advice:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/pre-school-3-5-years/caring-your-preschooler/sleep>

Speech and Language:

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/pre-school-3-5-years/caring-your-preschooler/speech-3-5-years>

Child Development

<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/0-5-years/pre-school-3-5-years/caring-your-preschooler/pre-school-review>

