

Seaham Harbour Nursery School



Early Learners Brochure 2022

**Early Learners
at
Seaham Harbour Nursery School**
Bottleworks Road

Seaham

Co.Durham

SR7 7NN

Tel. (0191) 5812829

e-mail: seahamharbour.nursery@durhamlearning.net

Ofsted March 2006 - "Outstanding"

"Seaham Harbour Nursery School is an outstanding school. It is a lovely place for a child to be"

"Teaching is exceptional and so children learn very well"

Ofsted May 2009 - "Outstanding"

"All educational establishments should be like this"

"This is an outstanding school. Children thrive in a highly stimulating environment and make excellent progress in their learning as well as their personal development"

Ofsted January 2012 - "Outstanding"

"This is an outstanding school, committed to continually extending and improving provision"

"The head teacher, governors and staff are determined to provide high-quality education for

Ofsted March 2015 - "Outstanding"

"This is a happy and nurturing environment in which all children thrive"

"Teaching is outstanding"

"Children are confident, independent learners"

Ofsted March 2019 - "Outstanding"

for the fifth consecutive time

"This is a very caring school, providing high levels of support for children and their families"

"All staff have high expectations of the children's behaviour"

Staff

All staff are fully qualified and hold required police checks and required qualifications. Skills and qualifications are constantly updated and renewed through an intensive staff training programme.

Your children will meet the following staff every day whilst in Early Learners.

Miss Alex Taylor	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Miss Vicki Huntington	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs Vicky Waller	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs Julie Richardson	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Miss Christina Kafinos	Teaching Assistant (SEND)
Ms Estelle Keegan	Learning Support Officer
Ms Ann Bate	Cook/Caretaker

In addition your children will also meet the following staff whilst in Early Learners.

Mrs Carole Scott	Head Teacher
Mrs Sue Wilson	Deputy Head Teacher
Mrs Paula Henry	Teacher
Mrs Anya Williams-Hall	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs Lisa Stewart	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Miss Jade Tobin	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Miss Andrea Moore	Enhanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs Louise Read	Teaching Assistant (SEND)
Mrs Anita Marshall	Office Manager
Ms Ann Bate	Cook/Caretaker



Governing Body

Our Governors are representatives from the school, parents, community and Local Authority.

The Governing Body members are :

Mrs Ann-Marie Green

Mrs Carole Scott

Mrs Sue Wilson

Mrs Anita Marshall

Mr Dick Williams

Mr Stephen Brown

Mrs Julie Richardson

Mrs Rebecca Mastrangelo

Mrs Becky Robson

Miss Charlotte Bagley

Mrs Emma Watson

Mrs Stacey Richardson

Mrs Danielle Brown

Any correspondence to the Governing Body should be addressed to the Chair of Governors c/o Seaham Harbour Nursery School.



Early Learners Hours

Children attend Early Learners on either a funded play and learn place for 5 sessions per week or on a paying place for a minimum of 2 sessions per week.

Sessions are either 2 or 3 hours. (The 3 hour session includes a light bite meal).

Morning session times are either: 8.45-10.45 or 8.45-11.45

Afternoon session times are either: 12.45-2.45 or 12.45-3.45

We also offer Early Drop Off from 8.00, £2.00 per day, which must be booked and paid in advance.

Children must be collected from Early Learners by a named adult, who knows your child's password. Children under 16 cannot collect children from Early Learners.

If you are unable to collect your child, please let us know who will be coming, we will ask that they know your child's password.

If for some reason you know you are going to be late please ring the nursery to let us know so that staff can reassure your child.



Welcome to Early Learners

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child and we hope that you and your child will enjoy your time at Early Learners.

This brochure is intended to help you understand what we do, and how we will be working with your child.

Do remember that we work closely as a team, and if you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk to any one of us at any time.

**Never talk about problems in front of your child.
Anything that concerns you or your child is important**



Settling In

Your child's first few days/weeks in Early Learners are most important, and we want to ensure that he/she will settle in as quickly and as happily as possible.

Early Learners may seem a strange and noisy place at first, particularly if you have rarely, or never, been separated before.

We hope that your first visit together will help to reassure you both, but please do not worry if your child cries. All children can at some time, and staff are always ready to provide a reassuring cuddle.

We operate a staggered starting system where your child will attend for a short time in small groups and gradually over the course of a few weeks your child's time will build up to their full 2 or 3 hours.

Staff will keep you informed as to how your child is doing and how the length of time they are with us will progress. Some children will take longer than others.

Never talk about being upset in front of your child. If you anticipate problems, do come to talk to us, but not when your child is listening!

Please bring your child right into Early Learners; staff are always waiting to greet you and your child.

All children must be signed in and out every session they attend.

Don't worry if your child is upset or takes a while to settle into nursery. You are not the first parent to experience this and you will certainly not be the last. If you follow our advice we will soon have your child settled into Early Learners and they will be very happy here.

It is important to collect your child on time, and in the first few days it is a good idea to come a little early.

"Play is Work"

The first five years of a child's life are of vital importance. A child's experience and learning during these years is the foundation for the learning and development during the rest of his/her life.

Coming to Early Learners will be for most children the first step away from home and family. Our aim is to provide a safe, happy, caring environment in which your child can take the first steps towards independence.

The development of a friendly relationship between staff and you, the parents, will help your child make the transition from home to school more easily.

In Early Learners we provide materials, equipment and experiences, which with the help and guidance of experienced staff, enable each child to develop as a happy, confident and independent individual.

The emphasis in Early Learners is on enjoyment, exploration, discovery and participation in play activities that are based upon children's interests and current everyday themes.

**Play is the principal means of learning for a child of this age.
A child's play is his/her work.**



In Early Learners our children learn through their play activities (both indoors and outdoors) and when you come in you will not see us engaged in "lessons". We provide a rich curriculum to develop the whole child by providing first hand experiences (seeing, doing, touching for themselves) in all areas of learning.

The skills, concepts and knowledge we want the children to develop can be learnt through many different activities, so do not worry if your child does not choose to join in one activity, he/she will have the opportunity to learn from other activities.

It is important that children choose their own activities. We all learn much more easily if we enjoy what we are doing. We do on occasion direct children to adult led activities if they need help to get involved in play. Young children learn from everything they do, and their learning is not separated into individual subjects, as it will be later on in their school lives. Our planning, however, takes account of the individual areas of development.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Curriculum, this is based around 7 areas of learning:-

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Physical Development



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development is not taught in formal activities, but underpins all aspects of Early Learners.

We have high expectations of children's behaviour and we respect their choices and ideas. In return we expect children to treat each other and all adults with curiosity and with kindness.

We encourage the development of self-confidence, independence and self-awareness.

As a school we cater for the social and emotional aspects of learning. We prepare the children for new events and special days, as these can be worrying for young children. Through stories and puppets we deal with issues such as toileting, bedtime routines, sharing, turn taking, birth of siblings and other major issues that affect children in their home life.



Communication and Language

Communication and language development are two of our most important aims, and opportunities for children to improve their skills are essential as they are the basis for all learning.

By providing a language rich environment children are encouraged to develop communication and language skills.

In Early Learners we always have time to talk with the children, and most important of all, to listen to them. Children are encouraged through activities to talk and listen to each other and adults in a variety of situations.



Literacy

Literacy encompasses reading and writing from the earliest stages of development such as looking at books and making marks and patterns in sand.

Books are always available for children to choose and enjoy, and staff are happy to read stories to individuals or groups of children.

Children will have the Opportunity to borrow story and rhyme bags to share with you at home.

We encourage children to develop writing skills both indoors and outdoors. For example, our indoor role play area presents children with reasons to write eg shopping lists, telephone messages, menu orders etc. The outdoor area allows children to make marks on a large scale using water and paint brushes, chalks and paint etc.



Mathematics

Mathematical understanding takes place in all areas where children have opportunities to develop numbers, colours, shapes, measurement/size, matching and sorting.

Through activities children often solve mathematical problems, count, use numbers, mathematical vocabulary and do addition and subtraction in a practical way. They identify and use numbers up to 10 and sometimes beyond during their role play and as part of the day to day routine – straws in milk, or fruit on trays at snack time, children in groups etc.

Children also explore mathematical concepts such as capacity, weight, height, balance and estimation eg by filling cups and containers in the sand and water, both indoors and outdoors.

We encourage children to recognise numbers and count out loud and do addition and subtraction in a practical way.



Understanding the World

Understanding of the World activities are based on first hand experiences, where children have opportunities to experiment, investigate, find out, ask questions and use their senses.

Children are encouraged to use a variety of technology. We have a wide range of equipment including story phones, digital cameras, remote control toys and walkie talkies. The equipment is used across all areas of the curriculum where children's skills and knowledge are developed.

Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of being part of a community, for example their nursery, their families, their local community etc.

We celebrate family, traditional and cultural customs such as children's birthdays, Christmas and Chinese New Year. All children experience cooking activities where they look at how things change (as well as eating the products!)



Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts give children need time to explore and experiment with ideas, materials, activities and feelings. Through this they learn to share, develop imagination, solve problems, extend vocabulary and play co-operatively with each other.

Role play activities change frequently and we aim to reflect "life experiences" where children are given the opportunities to dress up and take on various roles e.g. hairdresser, doctor, builder, vet, etc.

Our children are encouraged to enjoy taking part in singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. Through these activities they find new ways of expressing themselves, improve their listening skills, learn to appreciate and enjoy a variety of music and develop an understanding of musical

Children are encouraged to participate in gluing, painting, printing and modelling. Opportunities like this help children develop their imagination, experiment with materials, plan and solve problems and gain confidence from creating something of their own.

We as adults must value children's work, you can do this by collecting your children's work and acknowledging their efforts.



Physical Development

As adults we are aware how important it is for young children to move. We encourage children to crawl, run, jump, spin and move how their bodies feel they should.

All of this movement has direct impact on their ability to concentrate, be social, develop good fine motor control skills and become comfortable in their own bodies.

We move full bodied and whole hearted!

Young children have lots of energy and we use our garden and climbing apparatus at all times of the year. We work outside every day of the year in all weather.

Children need coats in winter and sun hats and sun cream on the warmer sunny days.

Activities are planned to develop children's skills as well as develop their gross motor skills such as climbing, balancing and running.



Key Worker Groups

Every child has a keyworker and will spend time every day in a keyworker group. During these group times the children will work with their key worker building relationships, sharing news and developing key skills and concepts of learning.

Throughout a session all staff will work with all children, giving opportunities for all to staff to get to know all of the children and for all children to experience all the different skills the staff have.

Records of Development / Learning Journeys

We keep a record of each child's progress in Early Learners through on going assessments, observations and focussed activities. The information you tell us about your child forms the beginning of your child's record and we add to this. When your child transfers to the main nursery school, the record will be passed on to the nursery staff after you have seen it and had the opportunity to make comments about the record.

The record shows what your child can do, and maintaining it helps us to plan our activities to enable your child to progress at his/her pace. We invite you into Early Learners to discuss your child's progress during your child's time with us.

Each child has an individual learning journey of photographs, notes and detailed observations completed by staff showing progress and achievement. These are available to purchase at the end of the year.

If you do have concern about your child's development and progress please come in and speak to a member of staff.



Dummies & Comfort Toys

Obviously we realise at the age of our Early Learner children some of them may still have dummies and/or comfort toys/blankets. These may be brought to Early Learners and would be used when needed. However, it is your responsibility to make sure they are in your child's bag at the end of the session for you to take back home.

Toilet Training

We know children at Early Learners are very young and are at various stages of being fully toilet trained. Staff will work with your child developing this and supporting them at whatever stage they are at.

Children will need to bring a bag every day with a supply of nappies or pull-ups, spare pants and clothes so staff can work with your child on this.

Toys and Jewellery

Please do not allow your child to bring toys, jewellery or money to nursery. We are always pleased to see "special" things, but if they are lost or broken, your child will be very upset, so please take them home again immediately. If children do bring items to school staff have been asked to receive them and keep them safe. These will be returned at the end of the session.

If your child has pierced ears, please take the earrings out before coming to Early Learners.

We have agreed a "no jewellery" policy with other schools in Seaham to prevent accidents or loss.



Medicines and Illnesses

We do not give medicines out at Early Learners such as Calpol or antibiotics.

If your child needs medication on a regular basis e.g. – inhalers for asthma, you will need to complete a consent form and then we can administer the prescribed medication. Please see the Head Teacher.

Please let us know if your child is poorly and will be absent from Early Learners by telephone on the day of their absence.

If your child becomes ill at Early Learners, or has an accident, we will contact you as soon as possible. We must have at least two contact names and numbers.

Remember tummy upsets, sickness or diarrhoea, easily spread around. Children must remain away from Early Learners 48 hours after the last bout of attack.

Accidents

If your child hurts themselves at Early Learners the accident will be recorded in the accident book, you will be informed of the accident and be asked to sign the accident book. Separate notice slips will be issued if your child bumps his/her head.

Attendance

Please make sure that your child attends regularly unless he/she is unwell. Children cannot benefit from nursery activities unless attendance is regular. We do need to know why your child is not at Early Learners. Please contact us as soon as possible.

Parents of children with poor attendance will be contacted and persistent non attendees will be removed from Early Learners.



Child Protection

This we are required to do without discussion with the parents or carers concerned. Child Protection procedures and policies will be followed as directed by the Local Education Authority. Policies and guidelines are available on request.

It is our legal duty to pass on any concerns we may have for a child's welfare to Social Care Direct.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is essential in a school and we ask parents not to use mobile phones/cameras (whether talking, texting, playing games or taking photographs) whilst on the premises. If adults are seen using their phones/cameras they will be immediately asked to put the phone away or leave the premises.

Discipline and Behaviour

Discipline in school is gentle and fair. We never smack or hit a child. When we say "No" we really mean it and our "No" never changes to "Yes". We always give reasons why certain behaviour is not acceptable and follow a series of sanctions (such as removal from an activity/time out etc). If your child has been "naughty" then a senior member of staff will approach you at the end of your child's session. We also promote positive behaviour through praise and rewards. Policies and guidelines are available on request.



School Fund

We ask parents to pay **£2.00 each week**; the children are encouraged to post it in the post box at the beginning of the session. This money is used to provide a range of snacks for the children, pay for special events, resources and any extra treats for the children.

Children have a snack and a drink of milk/water every day at Early Learners

Photographs

The school photographer will visit school in January to take group photographs and in May, to take individual photographs.

Specialist Provision

Seaham Harbour Nursery School welcomes and recognises all children as individuals. Children reach different stages of development at different times in their lives and sometimes they may have some needs identified that are in addition to other children's needs.

We believe it is important all children should have the opportunity to "work and play" together. In this way they can learn more about each other and care for each other.

No child will be excluded from nursery activities it is our role to support all children in their learning.

We work closely with outside agencies such as Educational Psychologists, Speech Therapists and Physiotherapists devising individual programmes of work.

Policies and guidelines are in place and are available on request

If we have any concerns with your child's development and progress we will discuss this with you before agencies are involved. Likewise if you have any concerns please discuss them with a senior member of staff.



What to wear at Early Learners

“Joining in” is most important in nursery, so please do not send your child to Early Learners in their “best clothes”. We do have P.V.C. aprons, but accidents happen, and the paint, which washes off old clothes, will certainly stain new ones!

We do have a uniform – white polo shirt and red sweatshirt. The uniform is available from **J D Fashions, Church Street, Seaham**. The uniform is not compulsory.

Short sleeves on tops are better than shirts or blouses with buttons on. We want to encourage the children to be independent and avoid any unnecessary upset when accidents happen

Please do not dress children in jeans, dungarees or trousers with buttons and belts. Elasticated waists/jogging pants are much easier to manage when you are in a hurry for the toilet!!

Encourage your child to put on and take off his/her own coat. It will take a little longer, but will help independence at school.

Please name anything your child may take off, especially shoes, wellies, sweatshirts and coats, it is impossible for us to guess the owner.

We keep spare clothes in nursery in case of accidents, so if you are disposing of clean old clothes, we are always pleased to accept them. We don't have a never-ending supply of spare clothes. Please could you return any school clothes that your child uses as soon as possible.

We work outdoors in all weather, so please make sure your child has a coat (it can always be left on your child's peg if it is not needed).



Visits and School Trips

We often take children on visits, both locally and further afield. Some of these visits will be impromptu. It is necessary to have your permission to take your child out of school for short visits. A consent form for this purpose will be completed when your child

Photographs and Videos

We use a lot of photographs for display purposes and evidence of achievement. A consent form must be completed at the beginning of the school year.

Web Page

We have a school web page www.seahamharbour.durham.sch.uk, where information and photographs are displayed. A consent form must be completed giving permission for your child to be included in this.

Don't Forget!!!

The door is always open. If anything concerns you, no matter how small, do speak to the Head Teacher, or to a member of staff.

**We hope that you and your child have a wonderful time at
Early Learners at Seaham Harbour Nursery School.**

