

Barleyfields

A Sure Start Children's Centre



Early Years Factsheet for Parents and Carers

Purpose

The purpose of this factsheet is to outline to parents the different types of care and services available for children aged 0-5 years in the Barleyfields area.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

All schools and early years providers have to follow a structure of learning, development and care for children from birth to five years old. This is called the Early Years Foundation Stage and it enables your child to learn and develop through a range of activities.

The EYFS ensures:

- Children learn through play
- Providers of care work closely with parents who are the main educators of children and who know their children best
- You are kept up to date with your child's progress and share ideas on how to move your child forward
- The welfare, learning and all-round development of children with different backgrounds and levels of ability, including those with special education needs and disabilities.

This means that all of the following different types of carers will follow the EYFS:

- Childminders
- Pre-schools and nurseries
- Reception and Nursery classes in schools
- Sure Start Children's Centres
- Holiday playschemes
- After school and breakfast clubs

All of the above are registered with OFSTED and the latest reports can be viewed on www.ofsted.gov.uk or you can ask the provider to look at their most recent OFSTED report.

Toddler Groups, crèches and nannies are not required to follow the EYFS.

Choosing Childcare

Choosing childcare for your child is a very individual decision. You need to consider what suits you, your child and your family.

All child care providers will be happy for you to visit and will give you the opportunity to talk to them about what they can offer your child.

You can read the OFSTED report, look at the provider's literature and website, visit, speak to other parents and attend open days. You can consider the hours of care you need, the cost, the locality/convenience, your child's individual needs, and the rapport you feel with the staff.

From when your child reaches the age when they can attend school nursery up to them reaching compulsory school age (this is the term after they turn 5), you have the choice for them to be looked after by a childminder, a pre-school, a day nursery, a school nursery or reception class. The retention of your child's school place will not be affected by your choice.

It is important, whatever your choice, that you put your child's name down as soon as possible. Many of the providers in this area have full waiting lists for as much as a year ahead.

Childminders

Registered Childminders are experienced childcare professionals who care for children in a domestic setting. Childminders offer a flexible childcare option to parents usually between the hours of 8am and 6pm but often are available for early starts or late finishes to meet the needs of families. Childminders are registered with OFSTED.

Childminders will vary in the age of children that they care for but can take ages from babies to school age children. Some childminders will also drop off/pick up from pre-school/school.

To find a childminder in your area contact the Family Information Service www.hertsdirect.org/your-community/fsd/fis/ or phone on 0300 123 4052 (calls from anywhere in Hertfordshire will be charged at the local rate).

Day Nurseries

Day nurseries can offer flexible care ranging from all day care (some are open from 7.30 am to 6.30 pm) to part-time care, mornings and/or afternoons.

The National Day Nursery Association is a national charity promoting quality childcare in Day Nurseries and its website offers advice on what to look for and the type of questions you might ask www.ndna.org.uk.

Pre-schools

Pre-schools offer sessional care mornings and/or afternoons. Many also offer lunch clubs or breakfast clubs. They can take children from the age of 2 or 2½ up to school age. All of the pre-schools in the Barleyfields Children's Centre area are run by committees of parents, and parental involvement is welcomed.

After School Clubs, Breakfast Clubs and Holiday Playschemes

Many after school clubs are now offered in schools and some elsewhere. Breakfast Clubs can be offered by schools or pre-schools. Holiday playschemes are offered by a variety of different organisations.

Children's Centres

Children's Centres provide a place within the local community offering information and access to services for families with children under the age of five. They aim to offer every child the best start in life and have been developed so that families can benefit from a range of flexible services and support when they need it and in a convenient location. Children's Centres offer a range of activities suitable for different ages where parents/carers come with their child. Your local Children's Centre is Barleyfields we will keep you up-to-date with the activities we are offering. We would encourage you to register with us and sign up for our email or postal updates.

Toddler Groups

These groups are often run by parents and offer parents/carers a friendly environment to go with their child, to meet other parents/carers, and to play with their child. Most groups will offer a drink and snack for children and adults.

Crèches

Children can be left in a crèche on an ad hoc basis. This may be at the gym or while the parent/carer attends a course, for example.

3 YEAR OLD FUNDING

Most pre-schools and nurseries can offer up to 15 funded hours per week, 38 weeks a year.

Children become entitled as follows:-

Child born between 1st April and 31st August will be entitled from the September following their 3rd birthday

Child born between 1st September and 31st December will be entitled from the January following their 3rd birthday

Child born between 1st January and 31st March will be entitled from the April following their 3rd birthday.

Some places can offer additional hours which will be subject to a cost.

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING

There is limited funding available for 2 year olds who meet certain criteria. The criteria are not simply financial. If you think you may be entitled please speak to the pre-school who will have to apply on your behalf.

EARLY YEARS IN THE BARLEYFIELDS AREA

BARLEYFIELDS CHILDREN'S CENTRE, Woolmer Green Village Hall, Hall Lane,
Woolmer Green, Knebworth, SG3 6FD.
01438 814104

www.hertschildrenscentres.org.uk/barleyfields

CHILDMINDERS

Please contact the Family Information Service for an up-to-date list of childminders in the area.

DAY NURSERIES

Busy Bees 1, Mardley Hill, Welwyn, Herts AL6 0UE
01438 840138

www.busybeeschildcare.co.uk/nursery/mardleyhill

Circles Montessori Welwyn Equestrian Centre, Pottersheath Road, Welwyn
Herts, AL6 9SZ
0800 695 1515

www.circlesmontessori.co.uk

PRE-SCHOOLS

Acorn Playgroup and Pre-school, Oaklands School, Great North Road,
Oaklands, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0PX
01438 840132

www.acorn-playgroup.co.uk

Knebworth Pre-school, Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6PD
01438 234804

www.knebworthpre-school.org.uk

St Michael's Pre-school, London Road, Woolmer Green, Herts, SG3 6JP
07905 478520

www.stmichaelspre-school.org

Stepping Stone Pre-school, 111 London Road, Knebworth, Hertfordshire, SG3 6HD
01438 813070

www.stepsingstonepreschool.org.uk

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL NURSERIES

Knebworth Primary and Nursery School, Swangleys Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6AA
01438 812184

www.knebworth.herts.sch.uk

Oaklands Primary School, Great North Road, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0PX
01438 716155

www.oaklands.herts.sch.uk

St Michael's Woolmer Green School, London Road, Woolmer Green, Herts, SG3 6JP
01438 813267

www.woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk

TODDLER GROUPS

Playaways 9.30 – 11.30 Fridays during term time
St Martin's Parish Centre, London Road, Knebworth

Stay and Play, Mondays during termtime, 9.30 – 11.30, Barleyfields Childrens Centre,
Woolmer Green, Village Hall, Hall Road, Woolmer Green

NCT Bumps and Bundles and Cruisers and Crawlers, Thursdays 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm,
Barleyfields Childrens Centre, Woolmer Green Village Hall, Hall Road, Woolmer Green

Creche

Odyssey Health Club, Old knebworth Lane, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 8DU
01438 313320

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Knebworth Breakfast Club

Please contact Cathy Byron Grange cathybyrongrange@hotmail.com

Knebworth After School Club

Please contact Cathy Byron Grange cathybyrongrange@hotmail.com

St Michaels Breakfast Club

Please contact St Michaels School for further information. This club is only for pupils on the
St Michaels School Roll.

St Michaels After School Club

Please contact St Michaels School for further information. This club is only for pupils on the
St Michaels School Roll.