



345 Preschool Prospectus

Welcome to 345 Preschool!

At 345 we provide a caring and fun environment in which children can learn through play, in a way and at a pace that is right for them. With a high ratio of adults to children (1 to 6) we encourage and promote lively and enquiring minds, and a caring and positive attitude towards others. The children are involved in planning their learning experience allowing them to be creative, have a voice and feel included.

We work closely with the whole family and parents and carers are encouraged to come in and involve themselves in the preschool. Our close partnership with Sun Hill Infant School ensures the transition to “big school” is a positive experience for everyone.

We take full advantage of our location in the heart of Alresford, organising regular trips out and inviting visitors from the local community to talk to the children. Activities such as outings to the local library on World Book Day, joining the community at the annual Alresford Watercress and Music festivals and visiting the local fire station to name but a few!

Being in the heart of Alresford, 345 preschool has access to and great support from the local community. We have fantastic facilities which are utilised to their maximum effect...

The Hall: Our light, spacious and versatile hall provides the perfect setting for activities such as sand, water, painting, drawing, puzzles, book corner, construction, role play and play dough are all available throughout the morning. Activities vary according to the theme for the week.

The Courtyard: Our outside classroom: the children are free to come and go between the hall and courtyard area throughout the morning, whatever the weather. Our outdoor play activities also vary, including ride-on toys, playing with the construction bricks, sand, water, and obstacle courses.

Patchwork Playground: The children are able to play in the nearby Patchwork Preschool garden, testing their gymnastic abilities whilst playing on the adventure playground equipment.

Grassy Area: We also have direct access to a large grassed area which is used for physical activities such as football and running!

Playing to Learn

The provision for learning at 345 is based on the understanding that children learn best through play and have an innate motivation to learn. We provide an environment in which children feel safe and happy and are inspired to be creative and imaginative. The environment is stimulating and supportive, helping promote the development of each child’s self-esteem and confidence. At 345 we promote parental involvement and provide equal opportunities for all children and their families.

Learning through Play

Play promotes children’s social, emotional, cognitive, physical and creative development. We are aware and support that young children learn best through firsthand experience, and that the starting

point in children's education is what they can do, rather than what they can't. We encourage children to develop positive attitudes to meeting challenges and solving problems.

Choice

345 sessions are arranged so that the children can choose from and work at a range of activities. This enables the children to build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to working with others.

Outdoor activities are important to the wellbeing of the child and their physical development and knowledge of the world around them. Children are offered the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided indoors.

Key Person

345 offers the support of a Key Person system which involves each child being assigned to a particular member of staff. The Key Person ensures that the child is settled and is the main point of contact for parents. The Key Person is responsible for monitoring the progress of the children in their group and helps to create a smooth transition to Infant School.

Listening Group

Children are invited to participate in Listening Group at various times throughout the week. Listening Group can either be by Key Person group (e.g. the Red Group), or by ability and need. During Listening Group we promote turn-taking, concentration, signing, and listening to instructions and others. We sing nursery rhymes and play adult-led games. Listening group is also an opportunity to address any Special Education Needs, for example, we incorporate activities suggested by the Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) as part of the game.

Our Day

A typical session at 345 runs as follows:

9:15 Arrival and self-registration.

9:15 – 11:00 'Free Play' with a variety of activities, children are also encouraged to play outside in the courtyard at the front of the hall. Children are able to play indoors or outside according to their preference throughout the session. We have a rolling snack time which starts at about 10am. The children bring a healthy snack from home and we provide a drink of milk or water.

11:00 – 12:15 We all help to tidy away the toys and activities before taking the register formally. After register we sometimes have a story or song time, before all getting ready to go to play in the Patchwork Preschool garden. The children who go home for lunch are collected at 12:15.

12:15 – 1:00 The children sit in their Key Person groups for healthy packed lunches from home. This offers a further opportunity for relationship building between the children and their Key Person as they chat about the day. After lunch we have some more circle time with songs, games and stories.

General Information

The preschool meets during term time to coincide with local primary schools. Our terms are no longer than 12 weeks long and comply with the 38 weeks funding by the Government. The half terms are usually the same as the local primary schools.

Hours:

	Morning	Lunch Club
Monday	9:15 – 12:15	12:15 – 1:00
Tuesday	9:15 – 12:15	12:15 – 1:00
Wednesday	9:15 – 12:15	12:15 – 1:00
Thursday	Closed	
Friday	9:15 – 12:15	12:15 – 1:00

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Email: info@345preschool.org

Website: www.345preschool.org

Parking: Free parking is available at the nearby St Gregory's Church on Grange Road and in the pay and display car park at Perins Secondary School.

Admissions

Registration forms are available from the Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader or a Committee Member. We recommend applications are made as soon as possible as there is invariably a waiting list for admissions.

Allocation of Preschool Sessions

The Government funding scheme allows children up to 15 hours of free sessions per week for 38 weeks per academic year from the term after their third birthday. 345 endeavour to offer the maximum sessions we can but will ensure that all children will be offered 15 hours a week for the year before they start school.

Special Educational Needs

As part of 345's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child we take account of any special needs a child may have. The setting works to the requirements of the 1993 Education Act and The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001). We work closely with parents and Hampshire County Council's Area Inclusion Co-ordinator to ensure appropriate provision for children with Special Education Needs. SEN can also be children with high levels of intelligence, not just children with problem areas.

If you would like to discuss the preschool's ability to meet your own child's needs please speak to Debbie Markwick, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). Our full Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy is on the Parents' Table/available from the Team Leader or Chairperson

Snack Time and Lunch

345 promotes a healthy lifestyle, and therefore ask that children bring in a piece of fruit, cheese, or cereal bar for their snack. Free milk or water is provided. Snacks should be placed in a small bag or container as children are encouraged to become independent during this part of the session.

We also ask that children staying for Lunch Club bring a healthy packed lunch in a suitable container, please remember to include an ice block – especially in the warmer months. We sit in Key Person groups, and free milk or water is provided.

Management and Administration

345 is managed by a voluntary parent committee whose members are elected by the parents of the children attending the setting. The elections take place at the Annual General Meeting in September each year. The committee is responsible for:

- Managing the setting's finances, including fundraising
- Employing and managing the staff
- Making sure that the setting has, and works to, policies that help it to provide a high quality service
- Making sure that the setting works in partnership with the children's parents.

The Annual General Meeting is open to the parents of all the children who attend 345 Preschool. It is our shared forum for looking back over the previous year's activities and shaping the coming year's plan. All parents of children attending 345 are welcome to join the committee.

Policies

345 acts in accordance with policies as recommended by the Preschool Learning Alliance. All policies are reviewed annually. A complete set of policies are available on the Parents' Table/from the Team Leader or Chairperson and are posted in full on the 345 website.