



Partnership

4.6a Parental Involvement at Alyth Kindergarten

Introduction

Creating community and warm trusting relationships are central to our ethos at Alyth Kindergarten which particularly includes relationships with our parents and carers.

Whether you are a working parent or a stay at home parent, a grandparent or other relative or trusted family carer, we strive to form strong bonds. For the small children in our care this is core, after all, if the children see that the important people in their lives trust and work with us then it must be alright for them too!

How we do it

At Alyth Kindergarten we invite the significant adults in a child's life to come in and be welcomed for a variety of Shabbat rings and three Festival celebrations each year, **Chanukah, Pesach** and **Shavuot**. We have a termly rota of Shabbat rings that highlights when your child's class are including parents.

Other festivals are celebrated at Kindergarten without parents, although we ask for a variety of contributions such as a sign up sheet for the Party Food.

The Chaggim, **Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Succot** and **Simchat Torah** are celebrated in house without parents. At **Chanukah** the children sing and act out the story for parents to come and watch. Coffee is served for parents to mingle before or afterwards.

For **Purim** we ask the children to come in Fancy Dress. This can be their favourite costume from home or an ad hoc creation if you prefer. We do not invite parents to the Purim party as we find the children tend to settle better in costume without parents. There is a photo opportunity beforehand for parents/carers and we take photos for the Newsletter.

Tu Bishvat, and **Yom Ha'Atzmaut** are celebrated in house without parents.

At **Pesach** we invite you to be part of our Concert and the children are treated to a Seder. (Parents are asked to contribute traditional foods/symbols).

At **Shavuot** parents are invited to take part in our Concert *and* Sing and Dance as part of the Festival of Receiving the Torah. Parents may have coffee to go with the baking of a cheesecake to share with other parents afterwards. Parents are also asked to make their child a flower crown, either with other parents in the Foyer before the party midmorning or at home beforehand. The children will bring home a decorated shoe box which we ask Parents to help their child fill. We need volunteers to deliver our Bikkurim, a fruit and vegetable box, to one of the local homes for the elderly.

The 'Settling In' Period

Parents are expected to make arrangements for a trusted adult to stay with their child during the 'settling in' period when children start at the Kindergarten.

Volunteering in the Kindergarten

We ask parents to come and share their skills and expertise too. We have had a huge variety of parent workshops for the children including making bunting, cake decorating, looking at the bones of the body with an Orthopaedic Consultant, looking after the teeth with a Dentist, creating artefacts in clay with a sculptor, reading stories, teaching songs, woodworking and basic electrical wiring and much more. We have a 'Guide for Volunteers at Alyth Kindergarten' with further information. During 2014, we have included groups to support the library, mud kitchen, planting and growth and other opportunities that may relate to a theme.

Visits off site

Parents can volunteer to accompany children on visits to places such as the Farm, Kenwood, local book store, Butterfly Farm, local Homes for the elderly and many more.

Pre-Alyth

Kindergarten places are allocated up to a year in advance of children starting. The parents/carers are invited to become part of a Pre-Alyth group that meet once a week on a date agreed by the group either in someone's home or at a local park. The term before the children start at the group meet at Alyth. The Head Teacher pops in to meet the group and answer questions and observe the children, noting their interests and development. This is a lovely opportunity to get to know other parents and make friendships before the children start and it makes the start date less stressful too!

Our Drop in Policy

We encourage parents to drop in and let their child show them around and meet their friends. For busy working parents with an unexpected break in their schedule this can be a wonderful opportunity. Just drop us a quick email or call so say you are on your way.

Photos

We take several and post some on the weekly Newsletter that goes home via email each Friday afternoon. You can read the notices, the diary of the week's activities and see the photos of our children in action. Read the journey of the week on your computer or ask your child to tell you what they did. They cannot say 'nothing' as you will have the evidence.

Contact us

Email, Phone or Letter

You may use any of these methods to contact us and share information about your child. We cannot access the Kindergarten phone or email remotely.

Kindergarten direct line for Ruth, Jo and Rozanne: 020 457 8792

Administration or Bursary questions:

Jo Cosbert, Administrator

jo@alyth.org.uk

All other child related issues:

Cindy Summer, Head Teacher

cindy@alyth.org.uk

Rozanne Singer, Deputy Head

rozanne@alyth.org.uk

The office door is always open.

Cindy Summer
29 April 2014