



**CHEAM BAPTIST CHURCH PRE-SCHOOL** meets in the halls beside the Church, entrance from Malden Road, Cheam Village. We are open from Monday to Friday (except Friday afternoon) in term time and our sessions run from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and 12.30 to 3.00 pm. Most of the places for the younger children are in the afternoon. The older children have the option to increase to 3 hour afternoon sessions up to a maximum of 15 hours per week (subject to availability).

Our main intake is in September for children between 2½ and 3 years of age, and a few more children may join us in November, January and March once they have reached the age of 2½ and subject to spaces being available (see Admission Criteria). Free Entitlement Funding is available for children when they reach the relevant age –full details available on request. For more details see our Admissions, Fees and Funding policy.

Children are able to stay with us for their Nursery education if you wish and we can give you more information regarding this. In the interests of the children we are not usually able to keep them at Pre-school if they are also attending a School Nursery. Most children start with two or three sessions per week, increasing to five sessions by the time they reach Nursery age.

In our Pre-school we welcome and value all children and their parents, whatever their race, ethnic origin, beliefs, background, class, family status, religion or disability. Our aim is to provide a safe and happy environment where all children and adults are treated with equal respect and where cultural or religious beliefs, and home circumstances will be taken into account.

We are able to give extra support to children with Special Educational Needs and also to those who do not speak English as a first language and we try to arrange translation of our booklets and newsletters into other languages on request.

Our Pre-school has a Christian ethos which is supported by all our staff. We are members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and are registered with Ofsted under the provisions of the Childcare Act 2006. We have a strong emphasis on well trained staff and Ofsted judged us as 'Good' in April 2016.

We take great care in choosing the activities available for your children as we follow the National Curriculum Early Years Foundation Stage working towards the Early Learning Goals in the 3 Prime areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

These then lead into developing skills in 4 Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Creative Development



They will be encouraged to explore and learn about the world beyond home, to find new interests and friends and to have fun. Children will have the opportunity to choose from many activities, and aprons are provided for the more messy activities.

**Music:**

Children will be encouraged to sing with each other and with adults and to move and dance to music. They will also be encouraged to listen carefully to sounds and to take part in making simple rhythms, which will prepare them for more advanced musical experiences later on.

**Physical Activities:**

Children are naturally cautious and only attempt what they can do on climbing apparatus. Riding bikes and playing on a trampoline and balancing equipment develops co-ordination and balancing skills.

**Painting and Drawing:**

Children paint freely and choose their own colours, and are not limited in the number of paintings they do. There are easels, paints and large sheets of paper. They are not shown how to paint and at first may simply wish to cover the paper with colour. When they have had a great deal of experience with that, they may begin to paint circles, faces, people or houses. They should not be urged to reach this stage too quickly. Pencils are freely available and small pads and pieces of paper which will encourage them to make shopping lists and menus in pretend play.

**Sand and Water:**

Children find water fascinating, and they need not get soaked in the process - plastic aprons are provided. Play can be experimental - studying what the water does when it is poured, splashed or dripped. Water is soothing to the excited or tired child; it releases the timid or restricted child and is a safe outlet for the aggressive child. Both sand and water help children to learn about volume and texture.

**Home Corner:**

One end of the large hall is carpeted to give a cosy home feeling. Child size furniture and dressing up clothes are found here. The children pretend things like shopping, mealtimes and baby care. Playing at being grown up Mums and Dads can help children work out feelings of jealousy or fear and anxiety at being small.

**Books:**

Books are for looking at and to handle and for grown-ups to read and talk about. Enjoying books this way helps children later on to enjoy learning to read. Children have lots of opportunities to share books and listen to stories.

**Craft:**

Children are able to select their own materials and use their own ideas in the free craft area and will be helped to use scissors and other craft tools safely.

**Other Activities:**

Your child will have a chance to experiment with dough, glue, paper, printing, finger painting, construction toys, threading, puzzles, board games and many other activities. There will also be colour weeks, and sometimes Interest Tables and Nature Tables to help to encourage the children to look at the world around us.

They will take part in lots of pre-writing activities and have opportunities to count and explore maths in practical ways. All children will gain in skill and understanding through their play, especially when they have a chance to share their enjoyment with an adult. Talking with the children is one of the best and most enjoyable things a helper can do.

Throughout the year, a number of extra events may take place - Nativity and concert, Sports Day and picnic, Fathers' morning, individual photographs and outings. We will give you all the details you need as they arise.

We hope that our Pre-school gives families the chance to make friends, share experiences, and enable you to have a short break from the important and demanding job of bringing up your children.

## **BEHAVIOUR**

We believe that a child's confidence and self-esteem will flourish in an environment of praise, loving care and by example. This will teach the child self-discipline and a will to do well, and is encouraged by caring supervision and a large variety of activities, suitable to the age and stage of development of the children.

We do not expect children to behave the same all the time. From time to time, all children display unacceptable behaviour. This is a normal part of a child's development and with careful guidance, behaviour can be modified, so that the child can realise his or her potential within the group.

**In no circumstances will we use corporal punishment or any other sanctions that negatively affect the self-esteem of children in our care.**

## **RECORDS**

Each child has a Key Person who will take a particular interest in your child and discuss their needs and progress with you. We also keep a Learning Journey recording your child's progress, and will share this with you during the year. We love to hear what the children are doing at home too! Our aim is to work together with parents and carers to provide the best education and care of your children and we are happy to discuss this with you at any time.

## **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Children of eligible age will be admitted to Pre-school in the following order of priority, providing applications have been received by the deadline below:

1. Those who have supported special or medical reasons\*.
2. Children of members of Cheam Baptist Church.
3. Those who have a brother or sister at the Pre-school at the time of allocation.
4. The remaining places in age order with priority given to the older children, whilst ensuring a balance of Pre-school and Nursery children is maintained.

\* parents must supply relevant written professional evidence to support their case.

## **THE NEXT STEP**

If you are interested in a place we strongly recommend that you visit our Pre-school to see if this is the environment you would like for your child. This will give you the opportunity to ask further questions and see the children in action. Waiting list forms can be downloaded or picked up from Pre-school. Completed forms should be returned to Nicky Chantler at the pre-school. This does not commit you to a place but we will contact you when one becomes available.

Applications should be received by:

**6 March 2018 for children born between 1/9/15 and 31/8/16**

If you are applying solely for the Nursery (older group) applications should be received by:

**6 March 2018 for children born between 1/9/14 and 31/8/15**

Late applications will be considered after the others. If you move or change your telephone number please remember to let us know. We look forward to meeting you and your children.

For further details including current fees and Free Entitlement Funding please contact Nicky Chantler tel: 07938140813 email: [pre-school@cheambaptist.net](mailto:pre-school@cheambaptist.net)