

Learning Should Be Fun



Birch C of E Primary School
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Background

Caterpillars was established in the 1960's when it was based at Eight Ash Green. In 2002, the group moved premises to St Andrew's Church in Marks Tey.

Caterpillars at Birch was opened in September 2009, after the successful bid from their sister pre-school at Marks Tey to run a pre-school at the purpose built log cabin which was built by the school.

Ofsted inspected Birch in October 2014 and rated it as **Outstanding**.

(The full report is available to read on request or via our website).

Our group is an ever evolving establishment, changing to meet children's needs, community needs and government policies and standards. In addition, we implement new ideas and change our practice as staff consistently take part in on-going training. At Caterpillars, we all learn together and we learn from each other.

The session

Caterpillars is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and registered with OFSTED for children aged 2 & half years old to 4 years old.

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from, and work at, a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its

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completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities.

Our Session times are:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
2.5 year olds and over			
9:00 – 12:00	9:00 – 12:00	9:00 – 12:00	9:00 – 12:00
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3 and 4 year olds only			
9:00 – 2:45	9:00 – 2:45	9:00 – 2:45	9:00 – 2:45

Current fees are:

09:00-12:00 - £12.63 per session Under 3's

09:00-12:00- £12.63 per session (equal to the Government grant amount) Over 3's

09:00-2:45 -£24.21 **Over 3's only**

Parents can claim funding for over 3's, which can be claimed up to 15 hours including lunch clubs. Additional funding for 3 & 4 year olds can be applied for through <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Children aged 3 and over can bring a packed lunch and stay for lunch clubs. Staff help the children learn how to manage their lunch and pack it away afterwards before playing in groups with staff. You may wish to purchase a cooked meal for £2.20 which is provided by Birch Primary School. The lunch club helps prepare the children for a school lunch time.

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Snacks and meals

The setting makes snacks and meals a social time at which children and adults eat together. We plan the menus for snacks and meals so that they provide the children with healthy and nutritious food. Snacks are provided at each session at no extra cost. Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met.

Caterpillars' philosophy

We strive to provide an environment and activities that stimulate and inspire children to learn through practical experience. ***Learning should be fun!***

Learning through play

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. Our setting uses Early Years Foundation Stage to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. In some of these activities children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity. In all activities information from the Early Years Foundation Stage has been used to decide what equipment to provide and how to provide it.

Assessment

We assess how young children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. We use information that we gain from observations, as well as from photographs or videos of the children, to document their progress and where this may be leading them. We believe that parents know their children best and we ask them to contribute to assessment by sharing information about what their children like to do at home and how they as parents are supporting development.

We make periodic assessment summaries of children's achievement based on our on-going development records. These form part of children's records of achievement. We undertake these assessment summaries at regular intervals as well as times of transition, such as when a child moves into a different group or when they go on to school.

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Working together for your children

At Caterpillars we maintain the ratio of adults to children and aim to exceed this ratio where possible.

This helps us to:

- give time and attention to each child;
- talk with the children about their interests and activities;
- help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide;
- allow the children to explore and be adventurous in safety.

Our recent Ofsted report stated that: “The manager and staff have an extremely good understanding of how children learn and develop. The exceptionally child-friendly environment strongly reflects the children’s backgrounds and wider community.”

Records of achievement

The setting keeps a record of achievement for each child – a learning journey. Staff and parents working together on their children's records of achievement is one of the ways in which the key person and parents work in partnership. Your child's learning journey helps us to celebrate together their achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for their well-being and to make progress.

Your child's key person will work with you to keep this record. To do this you and they will collect information about your child's needs, activities, interests and achievements. This information will enable the key person to identify your child's stage of progress. You and the key person will then decide on how to help your child to move on to the next stage.

What to do next

If you require any further information or would like to visit Caterpillars, please contact Chrystal Clark, Manager on **07840 857592** or email birch@caterpillarspreschool.org