

# The Early Years at Vinehall



*Our aims...*

- To promote self-confidence and self-esteem for our children in a happy and caring atmosphere.*
- To provide a relevant and well-planned curriculum and learning environment...building on children's experience and prior knowledge.*
- To encourage mutual respect and value.*
- To promote an enthusiasm for learning and to encourage the development of independence.*

*(Vinehall School Policy for the Foundation Stage, 2004)*

# What are the Early Years?

- At Vinehall the Early Years are those years between the ages of 2 and 5.

**Nursery – Kindergarten – Reception**

- **‘Birth to Three Matters’**  
**‘Foundation Stage’**

Like all key stages there is guidance for

- ✓ curriculum
- ✓ planning
- ✓ assessment.

- As a setting we receive funding and are regularly inspected



# What we do

## The Curriculum and planning for 6 areas of learning

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Mathematical Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development



# How we get to know the children

## Assessment - Vinehall Early Years Profile

- **Formative:** Profiles of the children are developed throughout the Early Years.
- **Parental contributions:** helps to build an 'all round' picture of the individual child.
- **Team based:** teachers, teaching assistants and a Learning Support Assistant liase closely.
- **Observations and assessments** of the children inform their Profile.
- **Reporting:** daily contact, formal reports and parental consultations.



# A typical day: Nursery/Kindergarten

*Children may attend mornings or full days.*

Activities cover the 6 learning areas. We aim to nurture the child's development in a caring, enjoyable and stimulating environment.



# A typical day in Reception

8.20	Arrival and welcome
8.40	Assembly
9.00	Registration
9.10	Literacy
10.15	Play
10.45	Drinks
11.00	Numeracy
12.00	Lunch
12.40	Play
1.20	<i>A choice between</i> <b>Art &amp; design/ Physical development/ Music/ Design &amp; Technology</b>
3.00	Story
3.15	Home



# Frequently asked questions

- How can I support my child before he/she begins school?

*Encourage independence in  
self-help skills (dressing/eating/toilet/separating),  
social skills (sharing/taking turns)  
language skills (listening/responding)*



- What should I do on the first day?

*Maintain a calm positive attitude!*

*Set a routine, give yourself time, distract – don't respond to anxiety with anxiety! Above all, don't worry, we are only a phone call away!*

- **How can I support my child's learning?**

*We value parental support and appreciate that learning takes place beyond the classroom. Do show an interest, visit our classrooms and chat with the teachers.*



- **How can I communicate with school?**

*We encourage personal daily contact and through our home-school link book. Information can be found on our class notice-boards, newsletters and our website.*



# Further information

- Come and visit us:  
to arrange an appointment,  
please telephone

01580 883094

01580 880413 (*Pre-Prep*)



- For further Early Years information:
- QCA website [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)
- Sure Start [www.surestart.gov.uk](http://www.surestart.gov.uk)