

# The Grove



space  
to explore  
and grow

specialist providers of  
education & childcare  
for 0-5 year olds

The Grove Nursery  
& Pre school Ltd  
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# The Grove space to explore and grow

Children need to be given room to explore and learn about their world, their feelings, their abilities and interactions with others, but in order to make full use of these experiences they need love, reassurance and guidance.

At The Grove we provide children with the opportunities and the help they need to become confident, happy, successful and fulfilled individuals.

Drawing on years of experience working with and teaching young children, we have developed a system which uses the best practices from Froebel, Montessori and Reggio Emilia. The physical environment of The Grove has been specifically designed to encourage the children to explore freely making full use of all their senses.

Children's curiosity gives them boundless potential as learners, and we at The Grove are here to encourage and transform this to lead children to a greater understanding of themselves, others and their environment.

The Grove was founded in 1999 by Rebecca Browne and Elaine Catchpole. After years of working in both private and state nursery education and finding the majority of provision unsatisfactory they set up The Grove in order to meet the needs of parents and children.

## *Rebecca Browne*

Rebecca has a degree in psychology, is teacher trained qualifying in 1988 and has an advanced diploma in early childhood education. She has over ten years teaching experience.

## *Elaine Catchpole*

Elaine has over twenty years experience in child care. She is NNEB trained qualifying in 1980 and has managed nurseries since 1990.

The Grove provides unique, quality care and education because it is independent of any chain. We are flexible and approachable and offer each child and parent personal care.

We have excellent Ofsted reports and are a Quality Assured Nursery, an accreditation which gives parents the assurance that the services we offer are of the highest standard.



## The physical environment

The Grove is a wonderfully spacious nursery; it is split into five main areas for the children. On the upper ground floor there are three areas: Oak Room, our school room for the upper preschool and 'Squirrels', our after school and holiday club, Elm Room for our preschool children and Chestnut Room for our 2-3 year olds. On the lower ground floor are Willow Room, our baby room for children from 3 months to 12 months and Maple Room, our toddler room for children from 1 to 2 years. (These age restrictions are flexible and depend upon individual children's needs and abilities.)



## Oak - school room - upper pre school, 4+ years

This beautiful light, spacious room is for our oldest children.

There is a home corner which encourages social interaction and role play. The creative area provides children with opportunities to explore and experiment with painting, drawing and modelling materials. Sand and water trays enable scientific investigation and the children's scientific understanding is further extended through the provision of magnets, mirrors and magnifiers. The book corner with cosy bean bags provides a welcoming place for children to look at books and be read to. This is also the area where "circle time" is held, with stories, songs and more structured learning activities.

The preschool computer with a variety of programs encourages the children to learn about numbers and letters as well as developing their computer skills. The large floor area of the pre school means there is space for the children to build roads and railways and make interesting constructions using the many construction materials provided. The preschool has its own bathroom which is next to the play area allowing the children free access to the low level lavatories and hand basins, and so encouraging independence.

## The curriculum in the preschool

Once the children are three they follow the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum.

The teachers plan activities based around monthly or termly themes to cover the six areas of learning - Literacy, Mathematics, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Creative, Personal Social and Physical. Activities are fun but educational and children are given the opportunity to explore their own lines of interest with the support of their teachers.

The children's day is structured so they have time for free play and exploration as well as structured focused learning times in small groups, on an individual basis and whole group learning.



## Elm - lower preschool, 3-4 years

This area has been specially created for our preschool children. It is a beautifully light and calm space with a wild flower and butterfly theme. The pre school children are introduced to the Foundation stage of the National Curriculum through a range of daily planned activities which with time for freeplay and exploration provide the children with a balanced day. In Elm there is a quiet area for reading, a computer with pre school programs, a role play area for imaginative play and a well stocked creative area. The children have constant access to sand and water trays for scientific exploration and are able to choose which other equipment they would like to experiment with from the low level storage units.

The children's bathroom is situated just off the main room.



### Chestnut - upper toddler area 2-3 year olds

This light and spacious area has been decorated as a woodland scene with murals and collage that the children are encouraged to explore. It contains equipment and resources specific to the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of the two year old child. There is a home corner area for imaginative play, a cosy cushioned book corner and a well stocked creative area.

At the centre of the room is our unique tree house, allowing physical play in a safe but exciting setting.

The children also have their own bathroom with low level lavatories and hand basins to help promote their social independence skills and to aid with toilet training.



### Maple ~ lower toddler area, 1-2 year olds

This large open space is ideal for energetic toddlers.

A wonderful soft play area has been created within a partition for the children to practise their physical skills and have fun with their friends. This area is used by all the children in the nursery at different times of the day.

The slide activity centre provides further opportunities for physical play along with wooden bikes, trolleys and rockers.

The “messy area” allows the children to explore water, sand and tactile materials and experiment with paint and glue as they create their first master pieces!

There is a bathroom with low level lavatories for children being helped through the initial stages of toilet training and a nappy changing area.



## Willow - baby areas, 0-1 year olds

This quiet and airy room provides a warm and comforting environment for our youngest children. There are soft mats to lie or crawl on, mirrored walls for sensory stimulation and equipment to aid physical development. There is a play area for crawling and hiding in. A cushioned book corner is screened off from the rest of the nursery for those quiet moments. Tactile activities are offered along with exploration of treasure baskets. All equipment has been carefully chosen with the babies' developmental needs in mind.

Off the main play room is the sensory room which is also used as the sleeping area. There is soft lighting and music to sooth the children.

Each baby keeps to the routine they have been used to and the key worker works closely with parents to ensure that our youngest children are happy and settled.

We teach the children Makaton sign language which enables the children to communicate with us before they are able to speak.

We provide cloth nappies for the children whilst they are at The Grove to try to do a little bit to help save the environment. Parents can provide their own nappies if they prefer.

## Library

The welcome area is home to our unique library which the children have access to throughout the day and each evening they are able to choose a book with their parents from our wide range of stories and take it home. The library is open each evening from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

## Outside play area

We are very lucky to have a small outside area for the children to play in. On fine days the area is set up with a range of different toys. There is a home area for role play and a swing and plenty of ride on toys a slides for physical play. The sand and water trays are also put out for the children to have greater freedom in their exploratory play.



## Activities

It is widely acknowledged that children learn through play but what is important are the activities, opportunities and support that the children are provided with, as these will ensure the most beneficial learning experiences.

Children are free to choose from toys and activities as equipment is made easily accessible. Supervision and support from staff ensure that play is stimulating and challenging and that the children's freedom is kept within the bounds of safety.

Each day offers opportunities for free play and more structured activities, particularly as the children get older. There are group times for stories, singing, music and movement. 'Circle times' are when the whole group gets together for activities to encourage literacy and numeracy. Structured



activities with specific learning intentions are offered morning and afternoon.

Our curriculum follows the government's Birth to Three and Every Child Matters guidelines and for the three to five year olds we follow the Foundation stage of the National Curriculum.

We base our philosophy on the practices of Montessori, Reggio Emilia and Froebel. Activities are planned based on the needs and interests of each individual child with a balance of formal and informal learning opportunities and an emphasis on self expression and exploration through play.

Weekly plans for different age groups are displayed for parent's interest and information.

We are privileged to have a teaching mentor who is a trained Montessori teacher and works on a one to one basis with the children to help them with specific skills.

Optional sessions in French, drama and music, taught by visiting specialist teachers, are also on offer.

The children have the opportunity to visit the local park regularly (weather permitting) for further play and exploration. Other theme related excursions are planned through out the year, parents are welcome to join in should they choose.

## One to one activities and progress books

The children's needs and interests are carefully monitored by their key worker who will identify and carry out specific activities with individual children. Children also work on a one to one basis with our Montessori teacher. Key workers monitor their children continually and records of their work and progress, including photographs, are kept in each child's progress book.

## Structure of the day

The Grove opens at 8 am Monday to Friday, and breakfast is provided until 9 am. The children then go into their different areas where they are involved in various activities until morning snack at 10.30am.

Lunch is provided at 12 noon and a rest period follows where the younger children can sleep or rest. The older children have a quiet time listening to music and stories. Lunchtime supervisors help supervise the children over this period.

Afternoon activities are carried out in the group rooms again working from the weekly plans ensuring the children are working towards the desirable outcomes following the recommendations from OFSTED.

Activities continue throughout the afternoon with a snack at 2.30pm and tea at 3.45pm.

The day ends at 6.30pm.

Activities vary on a daily basis and there are regular visits to the library and local parks and a weekly 'Bizzy Bodies' play session.

## Meals

We are very aware of the importance of encouraging healthy eating habits, so do our best to make meal times enjoyable. All food is freshly prepared on the premises using wholesome organic produce to provide a balanced and varied diet. Daily menus are displayed for parent's information. A typical menu may be:

**breakfast:** cereal, milk, juice

**morning snack:** sliced apple, dried apricots, juice

**lunch:** chicken or vegetable risotto, fresh fruit salad and yoghurt

**afternoon snack:** banana, rice cakes, milk

**tea:** cheese and tomato quiche and broccoli

Special diets are also catered for. Babies have their own meals freshly prepared following their individual weaning schedules.



## Staffing

The pre school and older toddler groups are staffed by a team of trained NNEBs headed by our teacher Rebecca Browne. Rebecca plans the pre school curriculum and assesses the children to identify their particular needs and interests.

The younger toddler and baby groups are staffed by a team of NNEBs with special interest in and knowledge of the younger children. Elaine Catchpole heads these groups and is responsible for the planning of activities and day to day care of the children.

We do not use temporary agency staff as we have our own relief staff who come in to cover for staff illness or holidays and you can be assured that all our staff have been checked



by the CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) to make sure they are safe to work with children.

All our staff are carefully chosen not only for their academic qualifications but also for the commitment and enthusiasm they have demonstrated in their care of young children. Staff appraisal and training ensure continued high standard of professionalism. At The Grove we keep not only within but above the staffing ratios recommended by OFSTED providing you with peace of mind and your children with the attention they deserve.



## Parents

The Grove is here to provide a flexible service, whether you are a working parent or require a nursery place to give you some time and your child the social benefits nursery provides. Feed back and communication are vital to ensure your child receives the best possible care and education so every day you will receive a written report on your child's progress and their day. This also gives you the opportunity to respond or record observations of your own. Staff, of course, are always on hand to discuss your child's needs or any concerns you may have.

Our approach is a personal and friendly one. We aim to make things as easy as possible for you, providing all baby bottles, milk and solid feeds, cloth nappies and bedding, so all you

need to remember in the morning is your child!

The Grove even has a visiting hairdresser and photographer.

If you need to leave early for work or have a late meeting you can arrange in advance for a member of staff to bring your child to The Grove or take them home for you at the end of the day. Staff are also available for babysitting.

Our welcome area has a comfy corner for parents, somewhere to wait whilst your child is first settling in or a place to meet with other parents. There are information booklets and photograph albums to browse through.

Through out the year The Grove holds a variety of social events from Carnival and Fun Day to our Christmas party and whole nursery outing.



## Sending your child to The Grove

Please read our Parent contract and complete the enrolment form which you will find at the front of this booklet.

Once your child is enrolled at The Grove you will be given a settling in pack. You and your child will be assigned a member of our staff who will be your key worker and we can arrange a home visit if you would like to go through a few things before your child starts at nursery. Your key worker will help settle your child into The Grove and will be available to discuss your child's needs and report back on your child's welfare.

You are welcome to come and look around The Grove. Please telephone to arrange an appointment.

The Grove is privately owned. It is regulated and inspected by OFSTED and was given a glowing report. In 2005 The Grove was awarded Islington's Quality Assurance in childcare.

This is what some of our parents have said about us:

**"Our daughter has been extremely happy in your care and the contribution you have made to her continuing development has been beyond my expectations."**

**"I would like to thank everybody in nursery for the love and support you have given my son and for all the skills he has learned in the Grove. I am sure you realise that we cannot express in words how grateful we are for the great time that he has spent here."**

**"Thank you, thank you, thank you! You have such a lovely nursery, we will continue to recommend it, we hope all continues to flourish and The Grove family continues to grow and blossom."**

**"We would like to thank you for everything you have done for our son since he joined you aged just six months. The Grove has played an incredibly important part in not just his life, but ours as well.. We will all miss you."**

**"We have been very fortunate to have found The Grove. Our children's early years have been toughly enriched by their time at your nursery. The loving, structured and stimulating environment you have created has given them confidence, happiness and precious friendships. We are very grateful to you all for your hard work."**

## **The Hundred Languages of Children**

**The child has a hundred languages  
(and a hundred, hundred, hundred more)  
but we steal ninety nine**

**we tell the child  
that work and play  
reality and fantasy  
science and imagination  
sky and earth  
reason and dream  
are things  
that do not belong together.**

Loris Malaguzzi  
co-founder of the Reggio Emilia

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