

Thomas Estley Preschool



Play and learn with us together

At Thomas Estley, we believe that a rich and varied learning environment and programme of activities, combined with support and opportunities carefully tailored to each individual child's needs and interests, helps each child to happily flourish and reach their full potential whilst in our care.

Ring 01455 283263 ext 205 or email nsadler@thomasestley.org.uk to book



Our setting, embedded within Thomas Estley Community College grounds, allows easy, supervised access to playing fields, gym, tennis courts and library as well as our own dedicated and separate preschool indoor and outdoor areas. Secondary aged students also enhance play and learning through planned leadership and volunteering activities within the preschool.



**Indoor and outdoor
play and learning all
year round!**

Outdoor play and learning

Thomas Estley preschool benefits from its own fenced outdoor areas where children can learn through both free play and planned activities, ranging from science and nature learning opportunities like bug hunts, listening walks and gardening, to physical development and sporting activities, free outdoor play and even picnics! Themed events like Race for Life, Sports Day, our Outdoor Classroom day, featured on Radio Leicester, where children learnt about everyday life for children in Africa, and our Peppa Pig Muddle Puddle walk, complete our outdoor menu.



Themed activities like festivals, celebrations and visits bring learning to life. At Christmas, children learn Christmas carols to sing to the elderly members of the community at Thomas Estley luncheon club, which goes down a treat!



Understanding the World:

Children learn about the emergency services and take part in a fire drill, winning certificates. They create British Values displays as they explore and celebrate what makes us all different. A variety of visitors and other opportunities enhance learning about the world around us.

Early years areas of learning

Children learn mainly through games and play. Areas of learning accessed by children at this stage, with progress regularly reported to parents and carers are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social & emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design



Learning about Animals:

Our annual trip to West Lodge Rural Park complements the curriculum and provides the first taste of a school trip environment!





Themed learning and learning through choice

We aim to blend planned and themed learning activities with free and child led play, enhanced with focus groupwork.

Each week there is a Theme of the Week, a Maths Focus for the week and a Book of the Week, to guide discussion and creative activities. Children choose and check out reading books from the college library preschool section.

Once a month we have a visitor led activity, a cookery-based activity, a themed display activity, a nature planting activity and a local walk to provide rich learning experiences.

Twice a day there are opportunities for children to choose activities and themes, so that they can explore areas and activities of interest in more depth. 'Special day' allows one child each day to lead other children and make choices about play and learning.

Activity areas available for free and guided play all day include a deconstructed play zone for creative play, sand and water play, a construction zone, a maths learning zone, a craft zone, a Small World playzone and a quiet reading corner, as well as other zones rotated on a regular basis.

Children are encouraged to bring and eat healthy fruit snacks and have freeflow access to drinking water and toilets, facilitated by preschool leaders, to ensure they are supported in making healthy lifestyle choices.

We report progress regularly to parents through **Tapestry**, our online learning journal, and Learning Journey folders and reports, where you can see pictures and notes about your child's development and communicate your feedback to us.

