



The Ark Pre-School Parents' Survey Results 2023

Dear parents/ carers,

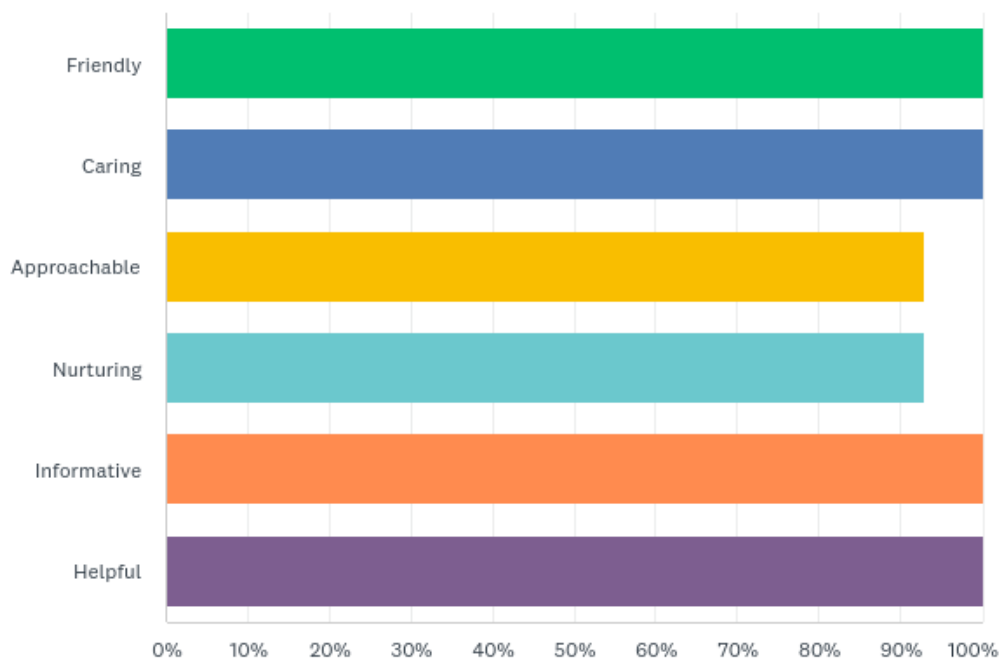
Thank you for taking the time to complete The Ark Pre-school Parent Survey. We received 14 responses to this online survey, and we really appreciate the time taken by these parents to give us your feedback. It helps us to strive to provide the best care for your children.

1) Is your child happy at the Ark?

100% of the respondents answered YES

Your comments indicated that the children love coming to The Ark and spending time with friends and all the staff team. The children especially enjoy the wide range of learning experiences and activities.

2) How do you find the staff?



Your comments indicated that the staff are welcoming, approachable and caring. A couple of respondents commented:

- *The staff are what make the Ark as amazing as it is*
- *All the staff are wonderful and go above and beyond to make sure all the children are happy and thriving. They show great levels of patience and kindness when helping new children to settle.*
- *Good individual communication about our child*

3) Are you satisfied with the care we provide?

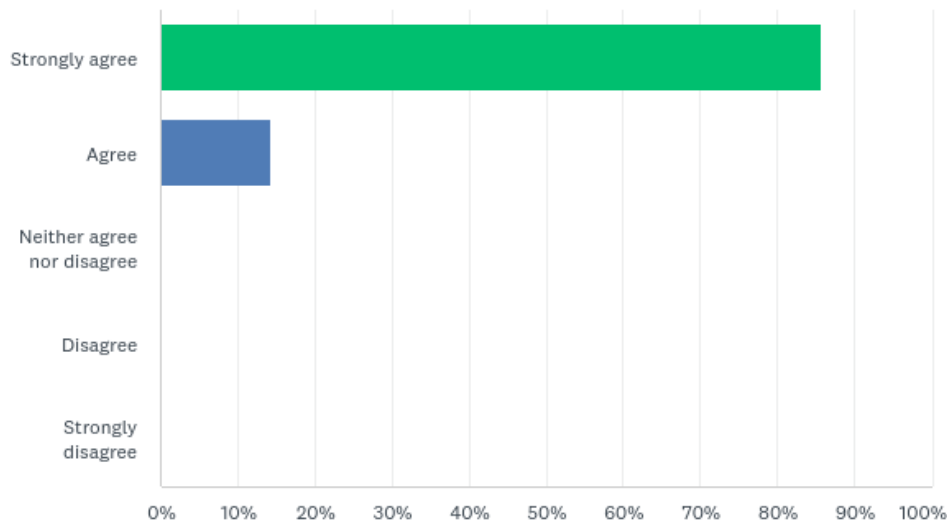
100% of the respondents answered Very Satisfied or Satisfied.

One person also commented: "We always feel we can approach any member of staff about anything big or small".

4) Are you satisfied with the level of communication received from The Ark since your child started at The Ark (including initial registration packs issued, parent consultations, regular email reminders, newsletters, website, Facebook updates)?

100% of those who responded answered YES

5) My child's learning and development within the curriculum is well supported by the staff in the setting, and they are making good progress?



One respondent commented, "Our third child is attending the Ark and we feel that she is coming home having learned more than both our other children who were at other childcare settings."

6) Are you happy with the range of activities we provide?

100% of those who responded answered Very Satisfied or Satisfied

One respondent also commented:

- *Our daughter tells us limited things that she has done at pre school but all the detailed updates on Tapestry allow us to see just how much the children get up to*

7) I am well informed about my child's progress.

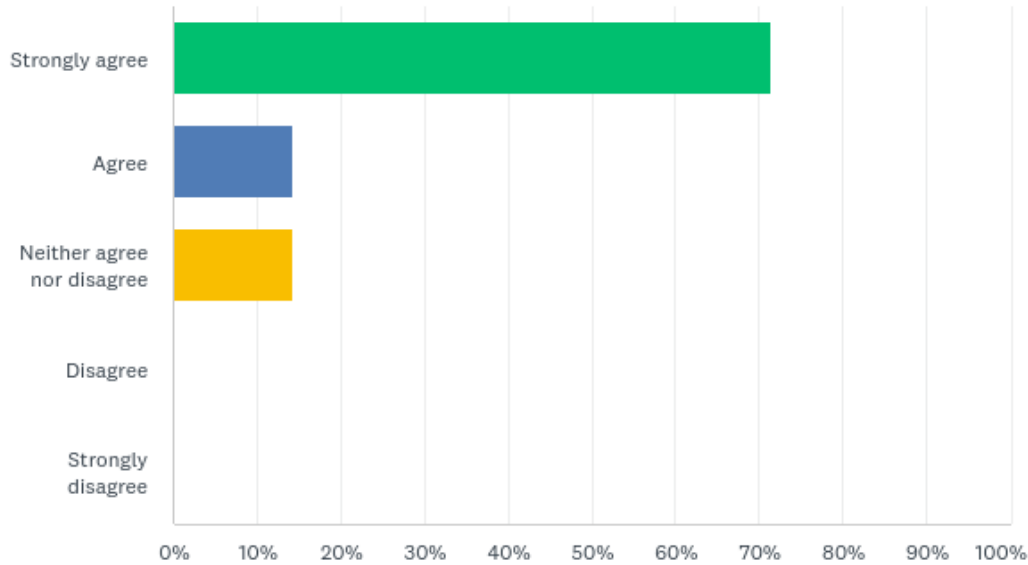
100% of the respondents answered Strongly Agree or Agree

Your comments mentioned how much you value Tapestry, as well as casual chats with staff and more formal meetings during the year.

8) Do you feel adequately involved in the life of The Ark?

100% of the respondents answered YES

9) My child benefits from the balance between the Fun in the Forest days at Wellington, and time in The Ark setting.



The comments submitted were:

- *I think this is one of our favourite things about the Ark. I think it teaches the children resilience (by going out in different weather conditions) and by walking during the Wellington days, and also enjoys the days inside where she feels more rested.*
- *I agree is it a good opportunity to be outside but walk days tend to be the day we have tears/resistance.*
- *My kid didn't like the fun in the forest day . In my opinion, one day per week could still be benefit for both kids who like that day and the rest who dislike. So they don't miss 2 days at the Ark if they don't attend the fun in the forest day*
- *But I do feel it should just be once a week, as some terms some children only do 3 days and walk twice.*

10) Do you have any suggestions of things we can improve, or any general feedback?

The comments submitted mentioned:

- *My child says more superhero costumes*
- *General feedback from us as parents couldn't be more positive. Our daughter went from being quite shy, to confident and chatty. We believe the Ark do a fantastic job in instilling confidence and the feeling of independence in the children and genuinely care and get to know them well.*
- *All 3 of my children have had a fantastic experience at The Ark and have been well prepared for starting school. Thank you!*
- *I appreciate it may not be possible due to the location however the room feels very bare - no artwork on the walls, drawings, posters - less like a preschool more like a conference environment. Not a criticism of the staff as I think everyone is fantastic but it's just the "feel" of the space.*
- *Sometimes I find it a little awkward when staff speak to parents after the session and all other parents can hear what is being said, even though we are trying not to listen. Obviously the odd message is fine but sometimes more sensitive messages are said in front of us all. I wonder if these children could be called last so most parents have left or there is more of a buzz around so its a more private conversation*
- *1- Fun in the forest once per week 2- Taking more care when kids go the toilet /wash their mouth 3- Providing long sleeve aprons for paint activity*
- *It would have been great if The Ark provided full days.*
- *Also if parents don't want their child walking, then they can chose not too attend on that day*

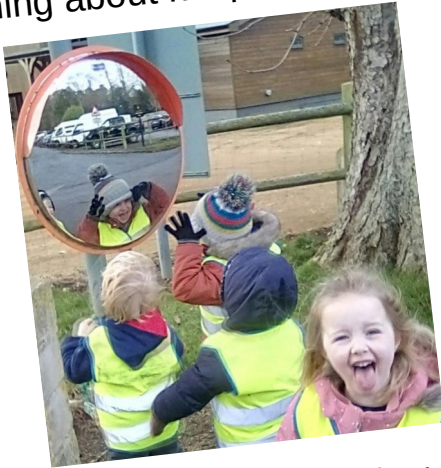
Our response

Why is outdoor play important?

Images: The Ark

Notes: Nursery World/Heather Sinclair

Health, emotional well-being and self image grow when children are able to create personal challenges of the right kind and level for them, learning about keeping safe as they do so.



Interaction with the natural world develops the feeling of being part of nature, not apart from it, nurturing willing and able caretakers – it also benefits children's mental health and grows resilience.

Relationships with adults and other children: for all sorts of reasons, relationships are different outdoors, conflicts are rarer, and enjoyable conversations more common.



The outdoor world is full of interest, feeding curiosity and fascination, so that meaningful opportunities for learning, expressing and developing abound.

Learning outdoors engages and deeply involves children, satisfying their strong drive to explore and make sense of their world and cultivating important dispositions for learning.



Repetition of routes allows the children to build associations with each stop along the route (e.g. king of the castle tree stumps, dinosaur woods, pirate ship) and observe seasonal changes.

What do we do at Fun in the Forest?



Birdwatching, spotting and identifying vehicles, listening to sounds around us, problem solving, learning to assess risks, measuring with string and sticks, hunting for minibeasts, spotting seasonal and man made changes in the environment, art and craft: e.g. leaf/bark rubbing and making nature crowns, memory games, hide and seek, shadow investigations, making natural collages, splashing in puddles, and much more!

Different types of movement - climbing, sliding, running, jumping, rolling, hopping, skipping...

Imaginative play – in dens, along a jungle path,



Taking turns using equipment – binoculars, compass

Reading books, singing, snacktime

Spotting letters, shapes and numbers



Collecting natural objects (pinecones, stones, sticks, leaves) and building with them, comparing their sizes, pushing them into hard mud/soft sand.

Finding out about the world: e.g. investigating a springy branch and working together to play on it safely, bending branches, feeling textures.

