

The Villages Pre-School

Eldwick

Meet the Team!





Hello and a very warm welcome to The Villages Pre-School. My name is **Jane Courtney** and I am lucky enough to be the owner and manager of this special setting. I am married with two children (girl and a boy), both of whom are now at High school, so I understand even more, how important it is to make the most of each and every day as time flies past so very quickly....

Coming from a financial services background, after my son was born, I decided to take a career break from work so that I could complete my degree and pursue a career change, moving into early years education and care. After becoming a Childminder (and achieving 'Outstanding' status in June 2010) and then completing my BSC (Hons), I embarked on a Post Graduate Certificate in Early Years and gained my Early Years Professional Status (now referred to as Early Years Teacher Status). I also worked as a Mentor and Assessor on the Post-Graduate Early Years Teacher course at Bradford College for two years, giving me even more experience of what makes a good setting and leader.

My passion is ensuring that all of our children receive stimulating, enjoyable, fun, varied, challenging experiences at Pre-School and I spend lot's of time researching current early years theories and practices, to ensure my knowledge remains up-to-date. I very much want The Villages Pre-School to be the best that we can be, because your children deserve the best start to their educational journey. I enjoy working closely with the Pre-School Learning Alliance, local Pre-Schools, nurseries, childminders, Bradford Early Years representatives, parents and practitioners, to share ideas and good practice.

In my spare time, I love sport - particularly cycling and running and I volunteer with Junior Ilkley Harriers as a Level 2 Athletics Endurance Coach.





A warm welcome to you all .My name is Caroline Prance and I am the Deputy Manager at The Villages Pre-School . I have 2 children , Jessica age 19 who is about to start her second year at University and Matthew aged 16 who will be transitioning into Sixth form in September .Time certainly flies !!

We have lived in Eldwick for the majority of the last 20 years and also in East Morton so you may have seen me around in either of the villages. Both of my children attended Eldwick Primary school so I am familiar with any transitional concerns you may have as they start and then continue their educational journey.

I obtained my NVQ3 in Child Care Learning and Development in July 2010 and feel very fortunate to have been able to work with Jane as her deputy since February 2011 with a very dedicated team.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know both you and your child ,and working together with you throughout the precious time they are with us to help them achieve their full potential whilst having lots of fun.



Anne Ayrton

I am really pleased to gain a part-time role at The Villages Pre-School as of September 2016. As a mother of three children, a previous nanny and a childminder, I am fully aware of the pressure that parents are under when they are choosing the right childcare provision for their child.

I feel really privileged to be part of this caring team of staff that are dedicated to each and every individual child's needs.

I live in Cottingley with my three children, Holly age 15, Lucy age 13 and Ben age 10.

I have a B-Tec national in nursery nursing.



Leesa George

I'm married with two children, Karis is nine and Charlie is eight. Since leaving school I have always worked in childcare becoming qualified at my college placement. I have managed private nurseries and assessed staff. I completed my NVQ 4 and I like to keep up to date with evening childcare courses. When my children started school I started work at The villages Pre-school and feel privileged to work in such a lovely setting, helping to create an exciting and stimulating environment.



Hello and welcome to The Villages Preschool! My name is Georgina (George) Katborg and I am the Deputy Manager of our Eldwick setting. I joined The Villages Pre-school in January 2015 having had a 15 year career with the BBC. I decided it was time to pursue my passion for Early Years education and I have never looked back! I'm Mum to Benjamin (13), Joseph (11), Matilda (8) and Bailey our dog! I am extremely dedicated to ensuring and enabling that every child has the opportunity to learn and explore in a safe, loving, stimulating and happy environment. I wish I'd known about The Villages Pre-School when my children were younger! I'm privileged to be in a job that gives an immensely rewarding experience. Each term I enjoy getting to know the children as individuals (and their families) and seeing how we are able to develop and nurture them whilst with us.

I have completed Portage training which has enabled me to have a greater depth of understanding of how to support children who face additional challenges. I am a fully qualified paediatric first aider and have completed my food hygiene training. I am also one of the team of Safeguarding Leads. In my spare time I like to go on long walks, the gym (perhaps not a pleasure?!) and spending time with my fast growing children!



My name is Vitaliya Pollard. I am originally from Ukraine. I have been working as an Early Years Practitioner in the Villages Pre-School since January 2015. I am married and have a son at Eldwick Primary School. As a family we are always happy to play family games, go for a walk, explore the great outdoors and have fun!

I have always loved to look after and play with children and that's why I have chosen my future career as a teacher. I obtained a Higher Education Level 6 Degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in the university in Ukraine in 2002 and since then worked as a teacher of English as a foreign language in Grammar School (Ukraine), as a teacher in the British Pre-School (Abu-Dhabi) and also as translator and interpreter in Ukraine and Bulgaria. I obtained a Level 2 Certificate in Children and Young People's Workforce at the Shipley College in January 2016.

I am very happy and lucky to work at the Villages Pre-School in Eldwick. I am pleased to be a Key Person and to support each individual child's development pathway and help them to become more confident and self-assured in their life.

I also attend various educational training courses to ensure my skills and knowledge are up-to-date and I have completed a Level 3 Paediatric First Aid course.

What I love most is to see the children settle nicely in our settings and enjoy themselves, laugh and chat, play and explore, communicate with each other and the adults; and through all that play they learn to be strong and independent, capable and resilient!!!



Hello!

My name is Maria Truelove and I am lucky enough to be the latest member of the lovely The Villages pre-school in Eldwick.

I am originally from Estonia, but moved here, to Bingley, 11 years ago.

Back in my home country I also qualified in BA honours in leather art and design. For the last few years I have been running and then doing craft in the local baby and toddler group. But as life had changed I needed a career re-think I looked into childcare qualification.

I am currently gaining my qualification in Early Years whilst working part-time at pre-school.

I am married to Andrew and have 3 kids- Sofia,9, Arabella,6, and Harry who's 2. Our littlest attends pre-school at the moment, so I totally understand you as a parent's worries and mixed feelings when it comes to choosing the right setting for your child.

As my older children have been to The Villages pre school previously, I know how much kids love the interaction and the hard work and care the staff put in.



Hi I'm Emma

I have lived in Bingley all my life and moved to Eldwick when I married my husband Jason in 2005. We have 2 young daughters Erin 9 yrs and Holly 7 yrs who both attended Eldwick Village Preschool and now attend Eldwick Primary School.

For 15 years I enjoyed a career in the Police Service as a Constable and then as a Sergeant. For the last 3 years I have been a stay at home mum during which time i attended Shipley and Craven college and gained a NVQ 2 and 3 in working with children. I am very excited to work at Eldwick Village Preschool alongside all the lovely staff and get to know all the children there. I look forward to helping them learn and progress in a fun and happy environment.



My name is Rachel Cardamone and I am married to Salvatore and we have our 10 year old son Lorenzo.

We have recently moved to Gilstead and I am looking forward to working at The Villages Pre School.

I became a preschool practitioner after volunteering at the setting where my son attended; I then became employed and have worked there for five happy years.

I have gained my Cache Level 2 Children's and Young People's Work Force Certificate and a certificate in Paediatric First Aid. I have also attended courses on safe guarding and food hygiene and handling.

I really enjoy art and craft activities, reading and gardening. I am looking forward to encouraging the children to develop their creative skills and to take part in many other activities at The Villages Pre School.

I am starting a new chapter in my life, so I can empathize with the children if sometimes they feel a bit unsure in their experiences. I will support the children in their making of good friendships and help them to gain the confidence to be happy active members of The Villages Pre School.

I understand how important it is to provide children with a good start to their educational journey and to support and help them to gain the skills that they need to prepare them for school.

I love to watch the children as they progress and develop as individuals and I feel privileged to be able to be a part of and contribute to this special and exciting time in their lives.

I am looking forward to meeting you all and making lots of new friends.



Hi – I'm Peter Murray and I'm delighted to be working part-time at the Villages Pre-School. As its quite unusual for a man (especially a mature one!) to be working here let me tell you a little bit about me; I've worked in childcare for the last 16 years, starting when I supported my son Sam, who has Down syndrome, at his local pre-school. When Sam left I was asked if I would like to work there part time – and that was the beginning of an unexpected career change.

Around this time Down Syndrome Training and Support Services was established in Bradford; I am a founder member. Through my links with Bradford Under Fives Association I was asked to support a child in a nursery in West Bowling and again when he left I was asked to continue, eventually on a full time basis. While there I obtained my Level 3 Childcare qualification (I also have a BSc. In Social Sciences) Sadly this nursery closed and I secured a job in a Special School as a Special Needs Assistant, being duly promoted to Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

I left there to take up the post of Inclusion Officer for Bradford Early Years and Childcare Services, a role which saw me provide advice and training to Early Years settings to support them to include children with additional needs. After 11 years in post I decided it was time for a change and that working directly with pre 5 children on a part time basis would be ideal. Here I am!

P.S. Sam is 21 now and doing incredibly well – he's a Special Olympian and among many other things pulls pints in a local pub. My daughter Elanor is studying for a PhD. in Nuclear Waste Management at Birmingham University (Dad's bragging rights!)