SEN and Disability
Local Offer: Lancashire Children's Centres
Name of Children's Centre: Rural Wyre and Over Wyre
Lancashire County Council's Local Offer:

Rural Wyre Children's Centre website:
http://www.ruralwyrechildrenscentre.co.uk/

### RURAL WYRE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children's Centre Name and Address</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Website Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Wyre Childrens Centres, Kepple Lane, Garstang PR3 1PB</td>
<td>Rural Wyre: 01995 606736, Overwyre: 01253 701792</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ruralwyrechildrenscentre.co.uk">www.ruralwyrechildrenscentre.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Over Wyre Children's Centre, Hambleton Old School House, Hambleton Primary Academy, Church Lane, Hambleton, FY6 9BZ</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the centre specialise in meeting the needs of children with a particular type of SEN?</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Rural Wyre staff are qualified Early Years practitioners and have a sound knowledge of Child Development and the EYFS. They have received training in supporting the development of speech, language and communication skills in young children. They also receive regular training updates in a variety of areas linked to child development and well-being.</td>
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<tr>
<th>What age range of children does the centre provide services/activities for?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children from birth to 5 years and their families</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name and contact details of your centre SENCO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan Heller</td>
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Please provide the name and contact details of the person/role responsible for maintaining details of the Local Offer for your children's centre (this may be the SENCO, senior manager/ head of centre).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Person/Job Title</th>
<th>Contact telephone number</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan Heller – Children’s Centre Teacher</td>
<td>01995 606736</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jan.heller@lancashire.gov.uk">Jan.heller@lancashire.gov.uk</a></td>
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The children’s centre

About Rural Wyre Childrens Centres

Rural Wyre Childrens Centres (RWCC) comprises a Phase 1 and 2 service delivery sites covering 152sq miles. Rural Wyre Childrens Centres is commissioned to deliver Children's Centre services for the reach area.

The Centre was graded 'good' with outstanding features in its Ofsted inspection in March 2011.

The Centre works in partnership with 21 local primary schools, 19 PVIs, Health, CAMHS, Blenheim House, IDSS – portage/home visiting, further education colleges, Police, Social Care, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Blackpool Volunteer service, BfN and childminders.

As well as these partners the Centre also work closely with families and other agencies to strengthen and develop the range of services delivered across the reach area. The numerous diverse, rural communities are known to the staff and the variety of groups and activities greatly reflects the needs of these different communities.

The Centre is open 50 weeks of the year and has a highly qualified mix of outreach and support workers, extended services co-ordinator, centre manager, centre admin officer, and teacher.

In the same building there is a Private Provider – Garstang Preschool Nursery – which works very closely with the Centre (they have their own Local Offer). They offer childcare for children aged 9 months to 4 years and provide free education for certain 2 year olds as well as 3 and 4 years olds.

Head of Centre – Helen Ife (Headteacher Garstang St Thomas)
Extended Services Co-ordinator – Helen Buck
Centre Teacher – Jan Heller

Accessibility and Inclusion

How accessible is Rural Wyre Children’s Centre environment?

Access to the Children's Centre and the two satellite centres is designed for wheelchairs/specialist pushchairs. All sites are single storey and the main family rooms (and consultation rooms on certain sites) have doors wide enough for specialist chairs/buggies to get through.

The Children's Centre has a wide variety of good quality resources, including sensory and multi-cultural, and staff have a good knowledge of what is available to support families as and when needed.

All Children's Centre buildings are regularly risk assessed and fire action plans are in place for families, children and staff who might need support in leaving the building in an emergency. This is also the case for any other community venues that might be used for service delivery.

Children's groups/activities are carefully planned to ensure they are fully inclusive so that anyone who accesses, regardless of need or ability, can join in wholly. If a child has specific needs staff work with parents/carers and professionals to see if any particular interventions can be incorporated into play based activities either in the Children's Centre or at the child's home. If needed Children's Centre staff will work with services such as Portage and IDSS to aid with transitions into Early Years settings.

The Children's Centre is willing to offer targeted groups for children with additional needs when needed e.g. language delay and parents/carers are supported through parenting programmes to help address
issues such as behaviour, language development, healthy lifestyles etc. Adult learning courses are also offered at the Centre to help with key skills or in helping parents/carers gain further qualifications to help them get back into work e.g. Level 2 and 3 Childcare awards. Crèches run by Centre staff are sometimes offered to further support parents in accessing training if space allows.

Parents are actively encouraged to have a say in what goes on in their Children's Centre through a 'Friends of RWCC' group which meets termly, an online forum on the website, our Facebook page and through various evaluations and consultations throughout the year. Relevant policies and procedures are displayed in the Centre and on the website and are available to have in hard copy should anyone so wish. The website also has a 'volunteers' section which aims to encourage parents to join us on a voluntary basis to help out in a number of different ways.

All staff have a shared priority, that of ensuring all children have the best possible start in life and that all children and families in our reach area aspire to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Children's Centre works in partnership with many other agencies and despite the limitations of space at our centres delivers high quality services to all centre users.

### Identification and Early Intervention

How does the Rural Wyre Children's Centre recognise if a child needs extra help and how they support a parent if they think their child may have special educational needs?

RWCC recognises a child may have a special need if a parent/carer or member of staff raises a concern – a change in behaviour, not doing what they should be at a certain age or stage of development. Through observations of a child in group activities over a period of time. Another professional e.g. Health Visitor or Midwife might raise a concern to staff after a developmental check or because they have been working closely with the child/family. If the child has been signposted/referred to the Centre having been seen by a GP/Paediatrician/Speech Therapist.

The procedures outlined in the Special Needs policy ensure that staff are fully informed as to what steps to take. If needed a CAF would be initiated which identifies a child's needs and details any actions to be taken with appropriate support. If required an Outreach Worker will be assigned to the family to work with them so that the best possible course of action/support is taken.

Support can take many forms e.g. helping with benefit applications; support/transport to medical appointments; referral for portage/home visiting; assistance with two year old funding; working on a 1 to 1 basis with the family to address more specific, individual issues.

If a parent is concerned about their child they are always free to talk to a member of staff in a group or can just call in at or ring the Centre and ask to speak to someone.

### Teaching and Learning Part 1 – Practitioners and Practice

How is teaching and learning developed in Rural Wyre Childrens Centres services and activities?

The Children's Centre endeavours to work alongside parents in all areas of provision to promote learning and development for all children who access services.

Activities and groups are planned in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) with particular emphasis on the three prime areas of learning – Personal, Social and Emotional Development,
Communication and Language and Physical Development. If needed amendments will be made so that all activities/groups are fully inclusive to support all children, whatever their need.

Resources are chosen carefully ensuring they are of excellent quality and support children of all ages and abilities in a variety of ways. Staff are highly qualified with a variety of experiences and specialisms. All are skilful, creative and adaptable practitioners ensuring high quality activities are offered in all groups. Two members of staff are Forest School level 3 practitioners and they offer a variety of outdoor activities to many different groups of the community as this practice has a strong evidence base in supporting all children’s learning and development. This practice can also be used in more targeted group work and Family Support.

Regular consultations and evaluations are carried out with registered parents and the wider community to ensure the diverse needs of the rural communities are met to the best of the Centre’s ability. A termly programme of events/groups/activities is planned to reflect the outcomes of the consultations/evaluations and is emailed to all registered families who have requested this service. It is also available on the Centre’s website and distributed to many other partners, schools PVIs, Mother and Toddler groups etc. to reach as wide an audience as possible.

When parents/carers attend certain courses crèche provision may be available. If a child attends a crèche then a 'Special Times' booklet is kept which documents their developmental progress (in line with the EYFS) during their time in the crèche through a variety of written observations, photographs and actual 'work' produced by the child. If centre staff have any cause for concern about a child attending a crèche they sensitively approach this with the parents/carers and discuss how they can best support the family.

**Teaching and Learning Part 2 - Provision & Resources**

How are Rural Wyre Childrens Centres resources used to support practitioners to meet children’s special educational needs?

High quality resources appropriate for the ages and stages of children who attend the Centre are used. When purchasing new equipment staff will take care to ensure they are open ended, safe and durable as it is constantly packed away into storage containers and transported between the satellite centres. The Centre has purchased 'Sensory Suitcases' to enable staff to create sensory areas in any of its venues so that from a young age children can be encouraged to develop and use all their senses.

In all Centres staff endeavour to clear the rooms of additional ‘clutter’ and, where possible, remove adult seating to encourage parents/carers to get down to their child’s level and interact with them during play – this is modelled very well by the staff. Staff are very skilled at making the best use of space both indoors and out.

All Centres have a larger family room in which groups/activities/events take place and two of the Centres have smaller consultation rooms which are used for parent/carer meetings or 1 to 1 sessions as necessary. None of the Centres have spare rooms for crèches and staff have to be very creative and flexible to offer this facility. Some of our partners allow us use of their premises and these might have room for crèche provision.
**Reviews**

How do parents/carers know how their child is doing?

Children always attend with their parent/carer so they are able to see firsthand what their child is experiencing and achieving. If they have concerns as to whether their child is progressing typically staff members are always on hand and have a good level of knowledge to be able to have an informed discussion with parents/carers.

If children are attending a crèche at one of the Centres they will have a learning journey completed by staff so that their parents/carers can see what their child has been doing whilst in the crèche through photographs and written observations.

If a child/family is being supported through Family Support by an Outreach Worker then regular reviews of the targets in their Family Support plan are held and parents/carers can contribute to these plans.

**Transitions**

How does the children's centre prepare and support a child to join the centre activities, transfer to a new setting or the next stage of education and life to ensure his/her well-being?

Parent/carers are free to come and go as they please to a variety of groups and activities, not all will suit their child and, if this is the case in a certain group, staff will suggest other groups/activities which may be more appropriate for their child's age/ stage of development.

As mentioned previously, children only attend the Children's Centre with parents/carers. They may access other provision in the area e.g. childminders, nurseries, preschools all of whom we have very good relationships with and individual transition processes are determined by each of these.

If a local provider requires supporting information about a child then WITH parental consent we would be happy to provide this.

**Staff Training**

What training have the staff supporting children with SEND, had or are expected to have?

All Children's Centre staff hold qualifications in Early Years and have excellent knowledge of the EYFS framework. As further training becomes available staff will be offered any that they have expressed an interest in or which is thought might be of use to them through discussion in supervision or needs of the centre.

All staff have received training on early speech, language and communication development and the teacher has recently received a Postgraduate Diploma in Language and Communication Impairment in Children. Programmes to help parents support their child's communication and language development are regularly offered by the teacher and another trained member of staff. Bookstart Corner is delivered by a number of the staff to both groups and individual families.
All of the Outreach team have received training in 'The Incredible Years' parenting programme and The Solihull Approach. Staff use this knowledge in when delivering individual Family Support and group parenting courses are also offered.

Two members of the staff team hold level 3 qualifications in Forest School practice. Senior staff have attended Safer Recruitment Training which they have found useful when appointing new staff. A number of staff are trained to deliver Safeguarding, CAF, Safer Sleep training.

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<td>Who can be contacted for further information?</td>
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Further information can be obtained from:
Helen Buck – Extended Services Co-ordinator: [Helen.buck@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.buck@lancashire.gov.uk)
Jan Heller – Centre Teacher: [Jan.heller@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Jan.heller@lancashire.gov.uk)