
AGENDA ITEM No. 10

REQUEST TO USE THE RECREATION GROUND

From: Alice Keene
Sent: 08 June 2021 14:51
To: Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Ilminster Recreation Ground

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking my call today in regards to the use of the recreation ground in Ilminster.

World Explorers came about due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and has been running since April 2021. With the current closure of the Ilminster Toddler Group among others and the need for more structured settings & physical distance between parents and children attending clubs & classes in the area due to Covid-19, World Explorers was set up as an alternative for parents with young children to be able to get together and socialise whilst their children discover the world around them through "loose parts play" and exploration in a relaxed, Covid safe, outdoor setting.

"Loose Parts Play" is a fantastic tool to enhance child development, including fine-tuning those amazing hand-eye coordination, language & communication, fine motor, & cognitive skills amongst others. I have a large range of resources which I am expanding all the time which means each session can be different whilst allowing for the follow through of activities as pre-school children prefer to have. Each session is 1 hour long (though I am considering expanding this to 1.5 hours due to set up time and how an hour never seems to be quite long enough!) and if there was enough interest I would look to run two sessions back to back to allow for more participants.

I am an experienced children's entertainer having worked with children of all age ranges throughout my life but especially over the last 9 years running Science After School clubs for Primary School children across the South West. I am enhanced DBS checked and First Aid trained. I have a toddler (Edward - 2 yrs) who attend the World Explorers sessions with me as "Head Tester of Activities" - he takes his job very seriously!

So far we have endured high winds, hail, torrential rain, and scorching sunshine (on one memorable Wednesday all within the space of an hour..!) but parents keep returning, usually accompanied by a better raincoat... World Explorers has been described as "Forest School but without the mud and far fewer trees!" We are currently running on Wednesdays at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall and would like to continue to do so but on a Friday morning and move the Wednesday sessions to Ilminster if possible, the reason for this is there are easier to access facilities and I have a large level of interest for sessions in the Ilminster area from people who don't drive or don't have the ability to transport all the children in their care (childminders for instance).

I currently park my car on the very edge of the playing field, set my gazebo up off the back of my car, and unload directly onto the field for the sessions. Because of this, I would request, if possible, to be able to use the vehicle access at the top of the recreation ground so we can set up further into the field for the safety of the participants. Due to the number of resources and equipment, I would ideally not want to transport the equipment from my car over much of a distance! Eventually, I would like to be able to have a trailer/small caravan for storing the majority of the resources which I would bring to the site to set up each week if at all possible however for time being I am able to make do with my people carrier!

For more of an insight into our sessions please feel free to visit our [Instagram](#), [Facebook Page](#), or our [Happity Page](#)

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.