

Preschool education
Enchanted Wood Preschool



LEARNING JOURNEYS BROUGHT TO LIFE IN PRINT

Company Name: Enchanted Wood Preschool

Founded: 2009

Location: Four sites in the Bexley area

Services: Preschool education

Website: www.enchantedwoodpreschool.co.uk

Products: Canon MAXIFY MB5455 business inkjet printers

Overview

Learning is a journey for every child – even in the preschool years. Enchanted Wood looks after 42 children a day, aged from two to four-years-old, at four sites in South-East London. Central to motivating the children and communicating with their parents is a printed photo album showing each child's activities. Investing in an easy to access, cost-efficient printing solution provides the high-quality output that reflects the professionalism of the preschool team.

Challenges

Searching for savings, connectivity and print capabilities

As Enchanted Wood is a Forest preschool, based on a Scandinavian concept that places the focus on outside learning, there's a secure area of woodland at each school site that acts as an outdoor classroom.

All the children's activities, whether indoors or outdoors, are captured in photos, which are then printed to go in a Learning Journal.

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“The large colour touch-screen makes every task simple to complete.”

Previously, using a traditional home office printer was a laborious business. Staff had to wait until they were free from looking after the children then find leads for the cameras, smartphones and iPads to plug them into the printer and print out the photos.

The quality of the HD digital photos that nursery staff took didn't show on the printouts. Definition and sharpness were poor on the variety of home and office-style printers that Enchanted Wood owner Abie Sanford has tried in the eight years since the preschool was established.

The printers are also used to keep on top of all the administration that comes with preschool life. This includes printing off staff training certificates, online accident forms that are printed off to create paper copies for parents to sign, and registration details including copies of birth certificates. Hard copies of the paperwork are needed to comply with legislation and the requirements of schools' regulators, Ofsted.



“We do lots of our learning outside. Being able to access the printer wirelessly from outside is a real timesaver. We use iPads to take photos of the children's activities in the garden and send them wirelessly to the printer. When we come inside there's a pile of printed images that we can add to the pages of the children's Learning Journey albums.”

Abie Sanford, Owner,
Enchanted Wood Preschool

The sheer volume of printing has proved a challenge. “We were having to replace inks weekly, which was costly. Our logo is green and yellow so we were going through the colours very quickly. As there was no warning when the inks were low, it only became apparent when streaky, low quality prints started coming out of the printer.”

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Solution

All that has changed, with the Canon MAXIFY Series. Its built-in Wi-Fi connectivity makes it simple and quick to send a photo to print immediately.

These Learning Journey albums are a photo scrap book of each child's adventures. "This is the main way we show parents what their child has been doing, which strengthens the parent-school partnership, so it's important that they look good."

With the new printers "the prints are very sharp, even for something like children's writing, which can appear very faint on the page."

Abie discovered the Canon MAXIFY Series at an education show. "We saw a couple of products but this one stood out. It looked smart and also seemed to have all the features that would work well for us."

"We're really impressed with the Canon MAXIFY. It's quick and easy to use, all the staff can work it, which is quite a bonus," says Abie. That's important as the preschool has a range of users from 16-year-olds to older people who have never used a computer product. The large colour touch-screen makes every task, from photocopying to scanning and printing, simple to complete. Abie also likes the flexibility the Canon MAXIFY offers to handle any type of paper equally well – whether it's photo paper, normal plain paper or the stickers that are essential for motivating the children.



"The inks, replaced weekly on previous printers, now last much longer... we only change them about once a month."

Abie Sanford, Owner,
Enchanted Wood Preschool

Achievements

The quality of the nursery's printed material, such as the Learning Journey albums, is important for the preschool when selling its services. "It looks professional and shows we're professional, which is something that sets us apart from other nurseries and ensures we get really good parent feedback," says Abie.

Abie believes it's important for the photos of the children's Learning Journey to be printed out and available in a physical album so the children can look at them easily. As well as pictures of all the outdoor activities, the albums also include photos of any hand-written work, art-work or anything created on the iPad.

That's a lot of photos to print out – in fact, about 2,500 photos at each site, every month.

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“The Canon MAXIFY does everything we need it to do. Most importantly, with the speed and efficiency of the printer and the wireless connectivity we save so much time and effort, allowing us to concentrate on our work with the children.”

Abie Sanford, Owner,
Enchanted Wood Preschool



“Being able to access the printer wirelessly from outside is a real time saver.”

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