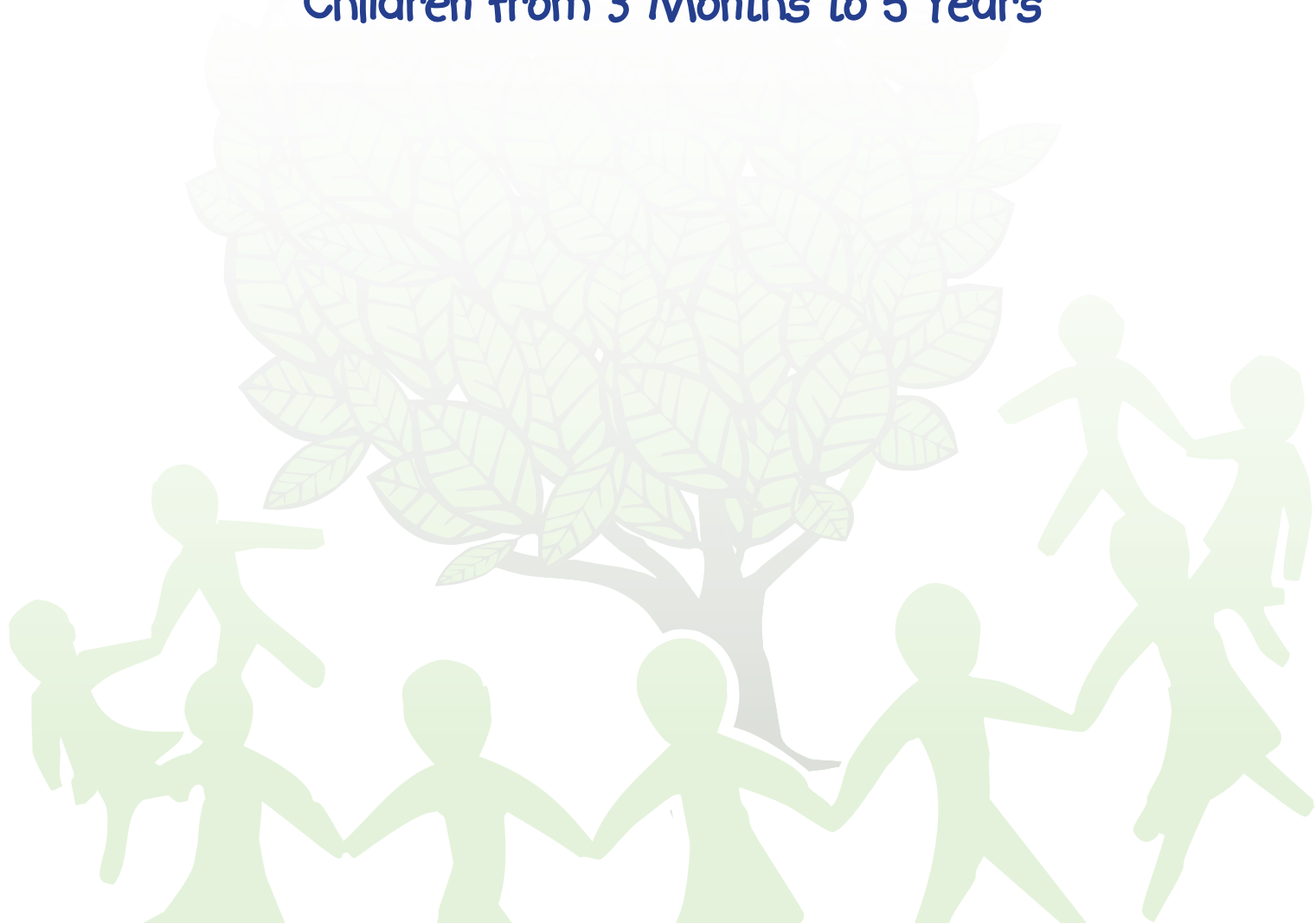




Outstanding Inspirational Day Care for
Children from 3 Months to 5 Years





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Welcome

We are pleased to present information on how our nursery is organised, and a taste of the beliefs and philosophy that underlie how we care for children. We hope the information is a useful introduction to our nursery and would be delighted to tell you more.

Rachel Hanham

Manager

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Philosophy

At the Verwood Day Nursery we believe in:

-  Fun for all
-  Care for all
-  Learning for all

Aims

Our primary focus is to provide care of the highest quality for both local families and those from a wider area. We intend to do this by:

-  Providing a safe, homely, fun and inspiring environment filled with enthusiastic, experienced and knowledgeable staff
-  Planning experiences that are child centred and respect each child's individual needs and interests
-  Establish a partnership with parents, supporting them and acknowledging them as the first educators of their child
-  Providing our youngest children with an environment that is warm, safe and stable and that will stimulate and nurture their individual needs

Registration Body

We are registered with Ofsted who inspect us against sections 49 and 50 of the 2006 Childcare Act and the regulatory framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021.

Safeguarding Children

The safety and security of all children is our priority and we are committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of harm or abuse, working closely with the local safeguarding children's boards and recording any concerns or referrals in accordance with our child protection procedures.

Our safeguarding policy is displayed on our parents notice board, in our visitors signing in book and freely available on request.



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Location

The nursery is in Verwood, on the Dorset and Hampshire borders. Located on a quiet road next to Potterne Park. It is easily accessible from the main commuter routes in and out of Verwood. The nursery ideally located for local families and those commuting from further afield. Please see our map at the back of this brochure.

Staff

We are passionate about what we provide and therefore we recruit carefully, employing staff who have the qualities needed to promote an environment of caring, friendly and professional relationships with you and your child.

As a company we reward our staff well and encourage growth and opportunities within all our settings. When we undertake recruitment we carefully consider the needs of the nursery to ensure we maintain a balance of skills, qualifications, experience and specialisms.




All our staff possess a full and relevant Level 3 childcare qualification. We employ four Early Years Professionals who each hold a Level 6 qualification. All our staff are required to hold current certificates in Paediatric First Aid, Food Hygiene and Child Protection and will be encouraged to take up training that is relevant to their own professional development, as well as the needs of nursery.

Some of our staff also hold additional roles such as Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENDCO), Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) and Health and Safety officer.

We employ apprentices who can undertake their childcare training whilst working to gain valuable experience. Each apprentice is appointed a mentor within the team to support them on their journey. We also have a team of dedicated bank staff, who are essential in their roles supporting our full-time staff.

Settling in Procedure

We attach huge importance to settling your child into nursery life. Before your child starts their settling in sessions, we will send you a parent handbook, this contains the following:

-  Information about the nursery and our policies
-  Information about our online learning journals
-  Details of how to prepare your child for their first day at nursery

Settling- in sessions of one hour each are provided free of charge and are a time when your child's relationship with their key person begins to develop. Staff will work with you to build an overview of your child's care needs and interests which will form the basis of their learning journey with us. This is also an opportunity to discuss permissions forms and medical or dietary needs.

We recommend a minimum of two visits and can arrange more if necessary.



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Food

We believe that a good diet is essential for happy, well developed, healthy children, therefore we provide 3 balanced and nutritional meals and snacks each day which will give your child the energy and nutrition they require to enjoy their time at nursery.

All our meals are planned and home-made on the premises by our experienced chef. We use fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat all delivered to our door as well as seasonal fruit and vegetables which the children grow themselves. Our menus run on a 4 week rotation and are on display in the nursery and on our website.

We are aware that some children have specific dietary or religious requirements and following discussion with the nursery manager, can be catered for. We provide a nutritious breakfast (up to 08.30hrs), a variety of mid-morning snacks with a choice of milk or water followed by a two course home cooked lunch and an afternoon tea. Younger babies will be given milk and weaning foods you have provided, at times to suit their individual needs.

Mealtimes are important social occasions in the nursery and we support the children to be independent and encourage them to experience different flavours. Staff enjoy lunchtimes with the children eating together and encouraging the development of social skills.




We support mothers who wish to breast feed and offer a quiet and comfortable place for feeding. We are able to store breast milk while your child is at nursery.

Facilities

The nursery is housed within a bright attractive building with spacious playrooms in which we are able to create a warm and friendly atmosphere. We take the safety and security of the children very seriously and the building reflects this with the needs of the children in mind. The ample off road parking offers safe dropping off and collection times.

The nursery uses both floors of the building with the younger babies and toddlers being accommodated on the first floor in their own dedicated unit, perfectly designed to meet their needs. On the ground floor, we have three large, attractive rooms for the children aged 2 years and over, with direct access to the outdoor play spaces.

Our outdoor areas are fully enclosed and include:

-  An all-weather play area that provides an extension of the nursery and allows free-flow play
-  A large rear garden of one acre consisting of an orchard featuring a wooden play trail, vegetable garden, mud kitchen, dens, bug garden and our outdoor learning classroom The Willow House. All of which provide endless opportunities for discovery, creativity, imagination and investigation.
-  A separate enclosed, shaded and safe area dedicated to our youngest babies providing a place to crawl, walk and explore.

Entry into the nursery is controlled and no unauthorised person is admitted to the premises, all visitors are accompanied at all times and we have procedures in place for the collection of children by an unfamiliar adult. The nursery operates a no mobile phone policy.



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The Nest - 3 months to 2 years

Our youngest children are cared for in our inviting and homely baby rooms, which we call The Nest.

This self-contained unit is made up of two rooms, both rich in natural light as well as being cosy and warm. This calming environment is full of resources which support our babies and toddlers growing curiosity and independence from birth to two years old. The large low-level windows allow endless opportunities for observation and conversation as cars, people, horses, and dogs pass by the nursery.

Babies and toddlers are introduced to new experiences and are given time to explore their surroundings safely using their senses. We have a large range of resources including open-ended and wooden resources and we also use Treasure baskets and Heuristic play to introduce the babies to, as well as sensory and tactile based activities. They have access to our one-acre garden area as well as having their own dedicated play space outside, providing lots of opportunities to explore the world, enhance their physical skills and use their developing senses.

The experienced, qualified, and long serving staff team are passionate about the care and development of our youngest children and have been chosen to work with this age group because of their knowledge, experience, and expertise. In their role as Key person, the staff ensure that routines such as nappy changing, feeding, and settling to sleep are opportunities for 'one to one' time, and are consistent with your routines at home.

Each room provides a 'cosy corner' for relaxing, sleeping or looking at books, and space for children to explore and play. There are nappy change areas, where babies are changed and nappies and wipes are stored, and a separate sleep room where cots are provided for sleep times. We provide each child with their own set of bedding and observe them through visual checks and via our video monitor.

Staff record information for parents in our online diary system. This includes sleep times, meals and snacks and nappy changes. This information is shared with parents together with details of all the wonderful activities and experiences that your child has enjoyed during their day with us.

We believe it is vital that we base your child's day around their individual needs and routines and therefore our room routines are not rigid, but instead flexible and reactive, ensuring each child receives the same opportunities for play and exploration at a time that responds to their needs.

The Plum Room – 2 to 3 years

Our toddler room has been designed to offer the best experiences, supporting our 2-year-olds with their newfound independence and desire to be involved in lots of new things.

Providing three separate play areas support the children with every stage of their development, which are equipped with a wide variety of resources. Loose parts provide opportunities for developing imaginations, construction, and open-ended play ideas to develop. A large role play area provides great opportunities to re-enact real life experiences with friends, while activities such as mark making, painting and playdough help to develop fine motor skills.

Staff provide activities that prompt curiosity and motivate children to experiment and free play allows time to explore and develop independence in learning. We motivate them to try new things and to enjoy new experiences. With lots of praise and encouragement they love to celebrate their achievements with everyone.

The rooms have direct access to the outdoor spaces where the children can use the playground and Orchard. Here they can explore and play with bikes, cars, the large play trail, mud Kitchen and dens. They help Ben our gardener in the vegetable garden, planting and caring for crops as well as digging them up and enjoying them in their meals.



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Children's independence is encouraged as they help to set the table for lunch and self-serve their food and feed themselves. They find their own coats and help to put on their shoes before venturing outside. At snack time they help prepare the food, cutting up fruit and then pouring their own drink. Children at this age are often starting toilet training and staff work happily with families, using years of experience to support children when they are ready to begin.

Positive interactions and communication help to build the children's ever-growing vocabulary, their speech, and their developing listening skills. Daily circle time sessions for storytelling and nursery rhymes help to support speech and enhance their rapidly developing language. A cosy corner resourced with puppets and books, provides opportunities for retelling stories and singing rhymes independently with friends.

Sleep and rest times are still important at this age and using a separate sleep room, staff support the children to have the rest that they need. Sleep times and patterns are discussed with families when children move into the room.

The Apple Room – pre-school 3 to 5 years

The main room is housed on the ground floor of the main building, providing free-flow access out into the enclosed large, all weather playground. This area is great for riding bikes, trikes, cars, and scooters as well as exploring large scale loose parts, water walls and ball games.

The children also have access to our one-acre Orchard where they can explore the mud Kitchen, enjoy bug hunts, and use our fantastic play trail, supporting their developing gross motor skills. The orchard is also where you will find The Willow House, our outdoor classroom, used exclusively by the pre-school children.

Both areas provide a rich and well-resourced learning environment, full of creative and natural materials and resources, enabling the children to express themselves as individuals and explore the world around them with confidence and curiosity. Open ended resources develop and inspire growing imaginations, while the free flow environment provides opportunities for role play, construction, group time, small world play and exploration of mathematics and literacy.

Staff foster and promote an excitement for learning and encourage children to become successful and happy life-long learners. Children are supported in leading their own play and express and follow their own individual interests. Learning is both challenging and fun, children are supported as individuals with adult led activities that support their developmental journeys.

Staff build on and encourage social skills, talking, listening, sharing stories and rhymes, and engaging in conversations and discussions as the children play. Children take part in physical play, focusing on the development of gross motor skills, listening and attention and following instructions, there are opportunities for cooking and helping Ben our gardener in our wonderful vegetable garden.

We use our local environment with visits to Potterne Park for nature walks and Moors Valley and trips to see the residents at a care home in Verwood.










Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning journeys with a focus on school readiness at the heart of everything we do. We have great links with local schools feeding into Verwood 1st, Hillside and Trinity schools in Verwood as well as St. Mary's in West Moors, Oakhurst in Ferndown, Three-Legged Cross, Parley, St James' Gaunts Common, Wimborne and Ringwood schools.



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Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework outlines the standards for learning, development, and care for every child from birth to 5 years old. As a setting, we have chosen to use the guidance document called Birth to 5 Matters to deliver education and care. We offer a range of carefully balanced experiences that focus on:

-  Developing creative thinking
-  Language skills
-  Mathematical and scientific understanding
-  Using imagination
-  Extending physical skills
-  Experiencing books, stories songs and music
-  Practising decision making and problem solving
-  Promoting care and concern for others
-  Respect for the environment as well as opportunities for fun and friendship

For our youngest infants we offer sensitive baby care through the individual attention of caring staff who nurture their natural curiosity and support development such as learning to feed themselves, learning to crawl or walk and learning to explore the world around them. We follow individual sleep and feeding patterns to maintain consistency with home life and to foster a feeling of security.

For toddlers and older children we offer experiences in a wide variety of play and learning activities building on their natural desire to make relationships, explore and discover. We encourage their developing social awareness, and help their growing self-esteem, self-confidence and independence.

We use careful observation and regular assessment of each child's development to plan for their play and provide experiences and resources that create a desire to investigate and learn, using their individual interests as our starting points. We document all this in their personal Learning Journey via our online system.

Our outdoor play areas are a vital resource supporting each child's fast growing physical abilities and challenging their skills whilst providing them with the sense of freedom and opportunities to be at one with nature, essential elements for early childhood.

The nursery is resourced with materials that provide opportunities for developing confidence, becoming problem solvers, making relationships, exploring and discovering and allow children to progress at their own pace within an environment that respects them as individuals.



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Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to become involved as much as possible in nursery life and we do this in a variety of ways –

- 🍃 Using our online Learning Journeys
- 🍃 Daily communication and information sharing at drop off and handover times
- 🍃 Parents evenings are offered regularly with your child's keyperson
- 🍃 Nursery events such as our annual Christmas Fair and school leavers party
- 🍃 Our open door policy promotes regular feedback and a chance to discuss worries or concerns.

Sessions and Fees

The nursery is open on weekdays from 7.30am to 6.00pm with exception of English bank holidays and a period of closure between Christmas and New Year.

Our sessions are:

Full Day	7:45am to 6.00pm
	7.30am to 6.00pm
Mornings	7:45am to 12.45pm
	7.30am to 12.45pm
Afternoon	1.00pm to 6.00pm
Full Time	7.45am to 6.00pm
5 full days	

Our daily fees are:

£66.00
£70.00
£38.00
£42.00
£35.00
£61.00

All fees are inclusive of meals and refreshments and a minimum attendance of two sessions per week is required.

Fees are payable in advance and a non-refundable deposit is required at registration which is then credited to your final invoice. By signing the registration form you are agreeing to abide by the nursery's terms and conditions.

We offer a sibling discount of 5% and an early starts contract which are both subject to terms and conditions.

Referral reward

Refer a friend or colleague to the nursery and you could receive £100 credit as a thank you. Please see our terms and conditions for full details.

Holiday discount

The nursery offers a 50% holiday discount each year for children up to the age of 3 years for the equivalent of two weeks calculated pro rata. Written notice of 6 weeks is required for the discount to be applied and then the relevant amount is then deducted from your monthly invoice.




Once a child is receipt of government funding or attends on a term time only contract, they are no longer eligible for the holiday discount.



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Term Time Only Contract

We are also able to offer term time only attendance for parents. This option means that there is no attendance and no charge made for the following periods -

-  2 weeks at Easter
-  6 weeks in the Summer
-  1 week at Christmas

The dates are determined as per Dorset school term times and a minimum attendance of 3 full days week or equivalent are required.

How Can I Get Help With My Childcare Costs?

Funding for two year olds

Depending on your personal circumstances, your child may be entitled to 2 year old funding.

For more information please have a look at: www.dorsetforyou.com/twoyearolds to find out if you are eligible. If so you can apply online or call: 01305 221066 for more information.

Some parents will also be issued with a 'Golden ticket' directly from Dorset County Council. This automatically confirms your eligibility to receive the 2 year old funding.

Funding for three and four year olds

All families with a 3 and 4 year old child are eligible for the universal funding offer of up to 15 hours a week term time or a total of 570 hours taken throughout the year. (A child becomes eligible for the funding the term after their 3rd birthday).

Tax-free Childcare and 30 Hours Funding

Tax-free childcare and 30 hours childcare are two separate government schemes, to help parents with the cost of childcare.

To qualify for either scheme, parents must be working and each earning at least £120 per week (on average) and not more than £100,000 per year.

Parents can use Tax-Free Childcare alongside the 15 and 30 hours funding but can't use it at the same time as they receive childcare vouchers, universal credit or tax credits.

Tax-free childcare

Parents are able to open a new childcare account and for every £8 you pay into your account; the government will pay in an additional £2. You are entitled to receive up to £2,000 government support per child per year towards your childcare costs. Payments to the nursery are then made directly from this account.



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30 hours funding

The extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds will support parents to get back into work, or work more hours. If you are eligible, you can get an additional 570 hours funding a year, so 1140 hours in total either taken as 30 hours per week term time or stretched across the whole year.

Tax credits and universal credits for childcare

Depending on personal circumstances some families will qualify to receive either tax credits or universal credit to help with the cost of childcare.

Childcare Vouchers

If your employer offers childcare vouchers or arranges your childcare, you can get up to £933 a year in tax and National Insurance savings.

The amount you can get in childcare vouchers depends on how much you earn and when you joined the scheme. You pay for your childcare before tax and National Insurance deductions are made. You can't use childcare vouchers at the same time as Tax-Free Childcare. Over time, Tax-Free Childcare will replace childcare vouchers and childcare arranged directly by your employer.

Childcare vouchers will remain open to new joiners until April 2018. Parents already using childcare vouchers can continue to do so after this date, as long as the employer continues to offer them.

Flexibility

We endeavour to offer parents the greatest amount of flexibility in the way funding is accessed. We are able to offer 15 hours or 30 hours a week term time over 38 weeks or stretched across 51 weeks. We also offer flexible session times (subject to availability) allowing you to access childcare that meets your individual needs.

If your child attends for more than the funded time or uses the nurseries additional services, supplementary costs will be applied and are dependent on the sessions attended, but will not exceed the nursery session fees. (A copy of our additional service charges is available on request).

Regrettably, due to life threatening allergies within the nursery, we are unable to accept children's food or drinks from home.

Applying For Help With Your Childcare Costs

Check your eligibility and apply online on the government's Childcare Choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare
Choices

Supporting families
with childcare costs

childcarechoices.gov.uk



HM Government



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