

VERWOOD DAY NURSERY



Serious about fun!

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





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Welcome

We offer inspirational childcare for children aged 3 months to 5 years. Our experienced staff, engaging environment, and child-led approach ensure each child thrives.

This brochure provides you with an insight into our values and what you can expect from our setting. We hope this information is a useful introduction to our nursery and we would be delighted to tell you more.

Kaitie Caldicott
Nursery Manager



Our Philosophy

We believe in:

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

Our 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 recognising 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

Ofsted registration

We are registered with Ofsted and comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025) and Childcare Act (2006).

Safeguarding

Ensuring the safety of every child is our highest priority. We adhere to rigorous child protection policies and procedures and maintain active collaboration with local safeguarding boards.

Our staff receive regular training in safeguarding practices to ensure they are fully equipped to recognise and respond to any concerns. We also encourage open communication with parents and carers regarding any issues that may arise. Our safeguarding policy is available at the nursery and can be provided upon request.

Location

Conveniently located in Verwood, near the Dorset and Hampshire border, our nursery is on a quiet road next to Potterne Park. It is easily accessible for local families and commuters.

Our Team

Our team is carefully selected for their passion, professionalism, and ability to build warm, caring relationships.

- 🌱 All staff hold a Level 2 or Level 3 childcare qualification.
- 🌱 All are trained in Paediatric First Aid, Food Hygiene, and Child Protection.
- 🌱 Some staff hold additional responsibilities such as SENDCo, Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Health & Safety Officer.
- 🌱 Apprentices train on-site with dedicated mentors.
- 🌱 We also have experienced bank staff who support our full-time team.

We value our team and encourage ongoing professional development to maintain high standards of care.

Settling In

We recognise how important it is for your child to feel secure in nursery life. Before your child starts, you'll receive a parent handbook, and settling-in sessions are arranged. These sessions help your child build a bond with their key person and allow us to understand their individual care needs, interests, and routines.

We recommend at least two settling-in visits, but more can be arranged as needed.

Parental Involvement

We value our partnership with parents and offer:

- 🌱 Online Learning Journeys
- 🌱 Daily feedback at drop-off and collection
- 🌱 Regular parent evenings and nursery events
- 🌱 Open-door policy for ongoing communication

Key Person Approach & Communication

- 🌱 Individual Support: Each child is assigned a dedicated key person who builds a close relationship with the child and their family. This ensures routines and learning are carefully tailored to individual needs and interests.
- 🌱 Daily Updates: Families receive regular updates and photos through the Blossom app, providing a window into their child's day and progress.

Food and Nutrition

We provide three nutritious, home cooked meals daily, each thoughtfully planned by our chef in accordance with current nutritional guidelines for early years settings. Our menus feature fresh, seasonal produce; some of which is grown by the children themselves; and we are attentive to every dietary or religious requirement. All meals are balanced to encourage healthy eating habits from an early age, offering a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins.

Mealtimes are sociable experiences where children are encouraged to be independent, try new foods, and develop positive attitudes toward eating. We fully support breastfeeding families and are happy to store breast milk as needed, ensuring each child's nutritional needs are met in a nurturing environment.

Facilities

The nursery is housed within a homely and attractive building with spacious playrooms, thoughtfully designed to support children's learning, exploration, and well-being at every stage.

The environment features:

- Large bright playrooms: Our sunny, secure rooms are filled with age-appropriate toys and resources that spark imagination. Calming colours, soft furnishings, and cosy corners make every space feel warm and welcoming.
- Outdoor play all year round: Whatever the weather, children can enjoy our outdoor area—perfect for running, scooting, and active fun that builds confidence and coordination.
- One-acre orchard: A beautiful space for outdoor adventures! Children can follow the wooden trail, dig in the mud kitchen, grow vegetables, or enjoy the Willow House our outdoor classroom ideal for stories and nature play.
- Dedicated baby garden: A safe, peaceful space designed just for babies, with soft surfaces, gentle sensory toys, and room for tummy time and first steps in the fresh air.

To ensure the highest standards of safety and peace of mind, we employ strict security measures throughout the premises, including controlled entry systems, and clear policies for drop-off and pick-up. Mobile phones are not permitted on the premises, and all visitors are always supervised to maintain a secure and nurturing environment for every child.

Our facilities not only provide opportunities for discovery, movement, and creativity but also reflect our commitment to holistic development, sustainability, and a sense of community. Whether indoors or out, every space is designed to nurture children's confidence, independence, and joy in learning.

The Nest (3 Months to 2 Years)

Our babies and toddlers are cared for in a nurturing and tranquil environment that feels like home. The Nest consists of two light-filled rooms designed to support sensory exploration, physical development, and emotional security.

Key highlights include:

- **Personalised routines:** Feeding, sleeping, and nappy changes are in line with your home routine and treated as one-on-one bonding moments.
- **Sensory-rich play:** Heuristic play, treasure baskets, and tactile materials stimulate curiosity and help babies explore their world.
- **Safe outdoor access:** A dedicated outdoor area allows safe exploration, complemented by access to our one-acre orchard.
- **Comfort and care:** Cosy corners for story time and sleeps, video-monitored sleep rooms, and individual bedding ensure restful days.
- **Daily updates:** Parents receive detailed records of sleeps, meals, nappy changes, and activities via our online diary system.
- **Experienced team:** Staff are specifically selected for their expertise with this age group and their gentle, responsive approach.

The Plum Room (2 to 3 Years)

This room is tailored for busy toddlers who are growing in confidence and independence. With multiple play areas and outdoor access, it is a hive of activity, imagination, and discovery.

Here's what makes the Plum Room special:

- **Rich learning environment:** Play areas include construction areas, mark making stations, a large role play area, and spaces for sensory play.
- **Hands-on learning:** Children enjoy experimenting with natural materials and loose parts, fostering early problem-solving and creativity.
- **Encouraging independence:** Children are supported in dressing, toileting, and self-serving at mealtimes, building independence in daily routines.
- **Language and communication:** Circle time, story sessions, and rhymes promote speech development and social interaction.
- **Outdoor discovery:** Children explore our play trail, mud kitchen, and vegetable garden, learning about the world through active play.
- **Gentle transitions:** A separate sleep room allows for rest when needed, with routines agreed upon with parents to support healthy sleep habits.

The Apple Room (3 to 5 Years)

Our pre-school room is a vibrant, stimulating environment designed to inspire confident and independent learners. We foster curiosity, school readiness, and a love of learning through a play-based curriculum and meaningful experiences.

- **Indoor-outdoor flow:** Children move freely between the main room, all-weather playground, and orchard including The Willow House outdoor classroom.
- **Enriched learning:** Activities promote early literacy, numeracy, and science through play, small group time, and hands-on experiences.
- **Creative exploration:** Loose parts, role play, arts and crafts, and small world areas provide endless opportunities for imagination.
- **Community connections:** Visits to local parks, care homes, and community events broaden children's experiences and empathy.
- **Developing life skills:** Children help cook, garden, and manage self-care routines. These tasks build confidence and responsibility.
- **School readiness:** We support each child with tailored learning plans and strong links to local schools, ensuring a smooth transition to Reception.



Curriculum

Our curriculum follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and supports a holistic approach to each child's development. We place a strong emphasis on:

- **Creative and Critical Thinking:** Through open-ended questions, problem-solving challenges, and group projects, children are encouraged to think independently, voice their ideas, and explore solutions together.
- **Language, Literacy and Mathematics:** Daily activities such as story time, phonics games, mark-making, counting songs, and practical maths experiences nurture early literacy and numeracy skills in engaging ways.
- **Scientific Exploration and Physical Development:** Hands-on experiments, nature walks, sensory play, and physical activities in our outdoor classroom, orchard and playground help children develop curiosity, coordination, and a love for discovery.
- **Music, Books, Stories and Rhymes:** Our environment is rich with music and literature, offering frequent opportunities for singing, playing instruments, acting out stories, and sharing favourite books, which foster language development and imagination.
- **Environmental Awareness and Social-Emotional Learning:** Our curriculum incorporates gardening, recycling, and discussion of nature, supporting respect for the environment. Circle times, collaborative play, and guided discussions help build empathy and resilience.

Learning is carefully personalised through ongoing observation, thoughtful planning, and regular assessment. Practitioners adapt activities to suit each child's needs, interests, and stage of development, ensuring everyone is both challenged and supported. Updates and progress are shared promptly with families via our secure online Learning Journeys, keeping parents closely connected to their child's educational journey.



Discounts and Rewards

- We offer a 5% sibling discount and early start contract which are both subject to terms and conditions.
- Refer a friend or colleague to the nursery and you could receive a £100 credit as a thank you. Please see our terms and conditions for more details.
- The nursery offers a 50% holiday discount for the equivalent of two weeks attendance calculated pro rata. Written notice of 6 weeks is required for the discount to be applied, after which the relevant amount is deducted from your invoice.

Please note: once a child is in receipt of government funding or attends on a term time only contract, they are no longer eligible of the holiday discount.

Term-Time Only Contract

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

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

The dates are determined by Dorset school term dates and a minimum attendance of 3 full days a week (or equivalent) is required.



Help with Childcare Costs

30 hours for children aged 9 months and above

Government funding is now available for working families with children as young as 9 months.

Eligible parents can access funded childcare hours from the term after their child turns 9 months old, helping to ease the transition back to work and reduce early childcare costs.

Specific eligibility criteria apply, so families are encouraged to check the latest information online or consult with the nursery for personalised guidance.

15 and 30 Hours for 3 & 4-Year-Olds:

All families are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare per week for children aged 3 and 4, available from the term after their third birthday.

Working families may be eligible for an extended offer of up to 30 hours per week (1140 hours per year), subject to meeting certain income and employment criteria.

15 Hours for 2-Year-Olds:

Eligible families can receive up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week, starting from the term after their child turns 2. Eligibility is typically based on income-related benefits or specific circumstances.

For the latest criteria, visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

Other Support Options:

- Tax-Free Childcare: For every £8 you pay into your childcare account, the government adds £2, up to £2,000 per child per year (£4,000 if your child is disabled).
- Universal Credit for Childcare: Working families may claim up to 85% of eligible childcare costs, subject to earnings and other eligibility requirements.
- Childcare Vouchers: Existing users can continue to use employer-provided childcare vouchers if they joined the scheme before it closed to new applicants in October 2018.

For the most up-to-date information and to check your eligibility, please visit or www.beststartinlife.gov.uk or consult the official government guidance.

For more details, visit www.dorsetforyou.com/twoyearolds or call 01305 221066.



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