



THE KINDERGARTEN

(Under new management)

WE PROVIDE:

- ❖ **CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-14 YEARS**
- ❖ **NURSERY EDUCATION FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS**
- ❖ **BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
- ❖ **DROP AND PICK UP FROM SCHOOLS AROUND WITNEY**
- ❖ **WRAPAROUND SERVICE FOR 4-5 YEAR OLDS**
- ❖ **HOLIDAY CARE**
- ❖ **OCCASIONAL WELL DESERVED REST**
- ❖ **TO GIVE YOUR LITTLE ONE A MEMORABLE BIRTHDAY PARTY**

WHATEVER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ARE, YOU CAN BE REST ASSURED - THE KINDERGARTEN WILL PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME.

INTRODUCTION

Our Aim is to provide a "Home away from Home for *your* child".

The following information has been compiled to enable new parents to have insight into our nursery. While most aspects of the running of the nursery and your child's particular needs will be discussed with you personally, we are sure you will find these notes helpful.



The Kindergarten and Out of School Club is situated in two superb self contained buildings, with secure entrance, large garden and private car parking facilities. The premises are built to very high standard. An important factor of our location is the safety considerations, both internally and externally. Internally children benefit from generously sized and brightly coloured decorated separate rooms for their particular age group and stage of development. Externally private parking, large secure play areas and private road are a few of the many benefits of the location.

The Kindergarten nursery provides your child with a safe, friendly, intellectually stimulating and fun environment with a focus on the individual care of each child. At The Kindergarten your child will enjoy learning through play to develop their physical, social and emotional skills.

Discover.....

- ❖ A warm welcoming atmosphere
- ❖ A wonderful balance of kindness and reassurance that our dedicated staff give to all our children
- ❖ How our children learn and gain in confidence
- ❖ Why our children love coming to nursery

Our activities are carefully structured and delivered through play at all times. Each child is allocated a key worker to ensure that all activities are geared to your child's needs from babies through to pre-school. As well as our child-centred early year's curriculum, we provide a caring, home-like environment with plenty of time for cuddles and of course rest time when the individual baby or child needs it.

To really appreciate the quality of care we provide you need to come and see us in action. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact us on 01993 700123 or email info@the-kindergarten.com.

MORE ABOUT THE KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten is organised into different rooms, each catering for the needs of babies and children of different ages and development stages.

Children can learn from children of their own age group and children slightly older from themselves. The rooms within the nurseries are divided as follows:

- ❖ Birth – 24 months
- ❖ 2 years – 3 years
- ❖ 3 years – 5 years
- ❖ 5 years – 8 years for after school and holiday clubs
- ❖ 8 years – 14 years for after school and holiday clubs

All equipment has been selected for age appropriateness, to develop your child's potential and interest; all equipment meets British safety standards.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Each child is very different; some want to engage in structured activities whereas others prefer to explore in their own way, in our experience most like to do both!

At The Kindergarten we operate a 'key worker' system which means that your child will get to know a small group of Nursery Nurses who can become familiar with your child's individual needs.

The activities will change depending on the time of year but will follow basics in reading writing, literacy and numeracy; all are focused on learning through play.

A NUTRITIOUS WELL BALANCED DIET

Freshly cooked food is prepared in our fully equipped catering kitchen, by fully qualified, experienced cook. The menu is well balanced and nutritious, designed to be low in saturated fat, high in fibre and free from additives. All cultural and religious needs are taken into consideration.

Each week, menus are displayed on the notice board in the main entrance.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

There is a purpose built large play area, which is completely enclosed and ensures security and privacy. This wonderful play area is safety surfaced with all year weather surface with a specially designed track for trikes. There are many other outdoor toys, all adding to a child's enjoyment of being outdoors.

OUTINGS

We regularly organise a variety of outings using our people carriers, which are fully fitted with 3 point child seat belts. For larger outings we use a local coach company, also fitted with seat belts. All outings require parental consent and parents are welcome to join us on an outing and we welcome any ideas for outings that are beneficial to the children.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

These activities are not included in your fees as these results in higher fees for everyone. If you wish your child to participate in extra-curricular activities you may choose from the following:

- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Ballet
- ❖ Soft Play
- ❖ Music

Swimming

Every Thursday during term time a small group of children enjoy swimming trips at the Windrush Leisure Centre. We have exclusive use of the learner pool and a life guard. We have a rota in place for swimming and children can attend as little or as often as you wish. A nominal fee is charged when your child swims.

Ballet

Every Wednesday a small group of children from the age of three participate in ballet classes at the Jill Stew School of Dance. The classes are during term time and run for ten week consecutive period. Children have the option to join a new class for the following term, once their ten week period is complete.

Soft Play

Once a week a small group of children from the age of 10 months enjoy soft play trips at "Kinderkids". This encourages physical development as well as being lots of fun and this activity runs during term time.

Music Sessions

Every week we have music sessions. An early years music teacher visits each class to extend language and numeracy through music. The classes are run during term time at nursery and are thoroughly enjoyed by all age groups.

OUR ETHOS

The Kindergarten

Our primary aim is to provide a service, which fosters the learning, development and well-being of every child in our care. In order to gain a true picture of each child and to help every child have the best start, we build close partnerships with parents, both valuing and recognising their input. We believe that the environment should be safe, welcoming, clean, relaxed and well resourced.

By providing a range of stimulating, well-planned activities, both inside and outside, we aim to meet the children's individual needs and interests.

Our beliefs are:

- ❖ **Children learn through play.**
- ❖ **We encourage the holistic development of every child and recognise that children are individuals and develop at their own pace.**
- ❖ **We encourage children's personal, social, spiritual and emotional development, as this is the cornerstone to all other learning.**
- ❖ **Through encouragement, praise, respect, affection and support, we aim to enhance children's confidence, self-esteem, sense of self and emotional well being.**
- ❖ **A skilled, experienced & qualified workforce is at the heart of high quality care.**
- ❖ **We build positive relationships with the children and strive to gain a true understanding of our children.**
- ❖ **We believe that children should be treated with respect. We encourage positive behaviour by talking and listening to children.**
- ❖ **We believe that children need to have routines, as knowing what will be coming next, helps them to feel safe and secure and sets boundaries.**

This is developed using sound principles and in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. The main principles are:

The Unique Child

Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self assured.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and / or a key person. They are encouraged to become familiar with books, able to handle them and aware of their uses, both for reference and as a source of stories and pictures.

Enabling Environment

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected. All the activities are carefully structured and delivered to reflect our ethos and every child's individual developmental phase.

THE BABY ROOM

In the baby room, we provide a warm, fun and stimulating environment, a place where your little ones can explore and develop whilst feeling safe and secure. We offer encouragement all the way through their important stages of individual development. We listen to you, the parents, and work closely with you to provide all the care and attention that your little ones need.

If you already have an established routine at home, this is continued at the nursery until the child is ready, enabling us to work in partnership with your little ones needs.

Children begin to enjoy more structure to their day as they actively participate in the varied activities. The baby room provides a generously sized and brightly decorated room, specifically for 0-2 year olds. Our well equipped room places consideration towards each developing baby, allowing them the freedom to grow and explore with increasing confidence.

THE 2-3 YEAR ROOM

Children's fine motor skills continue to develop and they enjoy making marks, using a variety of materials, looking at picture books and listening to stories, important steps in literacy. Self-help and independence soon emerge if adults support and encourage children in areas such as eating, dressing and toileting. Praise for new achievements helps to build their self-esteem. In this phase, children's language is developing rapidly and many are beginning to put sentences together. Joining in conversations with children is an important way for children to learn new things and to begin to think about past, present and future. Developing physical skills mean that children can now usually walk, climb and run, and join in active play with other children. This is an important time for learning about dangers and safe limits.

The 2-3 year room is based on a learning approach through play and through topics. Children begin to enjoy more structure to their day. The emphasis on learning through play carefully planned play makes it an enjoyable experience for your children, as well as aiding in their areas of development.

Children are actively encouraged to participate in variety of activities that are stimulating as well as being full of fun. Incorporated into the day is: arts and crafts, music and movement, musical instruments, group singing and action songs, sand and water play, group and individual story time, creative play, home corner and imaginative play, a wide range of large and small inset puzzles, big puzzles, matching and sorting games and construction toys.

In addition to the topics that the children enjoy, they begin to experiment with a broader range of materials as their understanding widens. Basic number and colour activities become extended through activities such as: action songs, lotto games, home corner and group discussion. Children have regular assessments to record their progress.

Children are encouraged to respect one another, establish friendships and enjoy and sharing and take turns as they continue with their development. The concept of why, how and when begin to be understood and having meaning applied to them, offering plenty of opportunity for social interaction and encouraging individual as well as group discussion.

When your child is ready we begin visits into the next age group. The visits are important ensuring that your child gains confidence enabling them to enjoy the beginning of the next stage of progress with a smooth transition into a new group.

THE 3-5 YEAR ROOM

An increased interest in joint play such as make-believe, construction and games helps children to learn the important social skills of sharing and cooperating. Children also learn more about helping adults in everyday activities and finding a balance between independence and complying with the wishes of others. Children still need the comfort and security of special people. Close, warm relationships with carers form the basis for much learning, such as encouraging children to make healthy choices in food and exercise. At this stage children are becoming more aware of their place in a community. Literacy and numeracy can develop rapidly with the support of a wide range of interesting materials and activities. Children's language is now much more complex, as many become adept at using longer sentences. Conversations with adults become a more important source of information, guidance and reassurance.

Children begin to build a stronger sense of their own identity and their place in a wider world. Children are learning to recognise the importance of social rules and customs, to show understanding and tolerance of others, and to learn how to be more controlled in their own behaviour. Learning and playing in small groups helps to foster the development of social skills. Children now become better able to plan and undertake more challenging activities with a wider range of materials for making and doing. In this phase children learn effectively in shared activities with more able peers and adults. Literacy and problem solving, reasoning and numeracy skills continue to develop. Children's developing understanding of cause and effect is encouraged by the introduction of a wider variety of equipment, media and technologies.

At The Kindergarten we do not automatically move children through the rooms when they reach a certain age, but when the developmental phase has been reached and the child is ready for progression. Gradual preparation makes for a positive transition when the time comes to start school. We work closely with parents to establish the best transition for each child.

The children enjoy weekly visits from an external music teacher. This helps to extend numeracy and language skills. Opportunity is still given to enjoy the importance of learning through play during the day. The day is carefully structured with a balance curriculum that ensures all six areas of learning are incorporated within it, giving consideration to each child's needs and development.

Children are encouraged to participate in the wide variety of activities. The beginning of the day is an opportunity for group discussion, centred around the current topic and the day's activities. The discussions encourage children to contribute to the topic planning which gives them an important feeling of involvement.

Activities include: early exploration, arts and crafts, information technology, story books and tapes, physical education, counting, sorting games and rhymes, comparison games, memory games, home corner are just some of the activities. By providing learning experiences that are not only stimulating but full of fun, we ultimately encourage children to enjoy themselves as they build on existing skills and develop new ones.

Carefully planned activities enable children to participate in number and counting games, pre-writing and pre-reading activities. Letter formation and recognition are being mastered at this stage. Topics are an ideal way to extend a child's existing knowledge and introduce new concepts and information. We teach using phonics with flashcards. Pattern and shape tracing cards encourage confident pencil control.

AFTER SCHOOL and HOLIDAY CLUB ROOM

To compliment the nursery provision we also provide a take to school service, as well as after school holiday clubs for 5 – 14 year olds. We use our people carriers to enable us to collect children from many Witney based schools and to enjoy a variety of outings during school holidays.

We have a friendly team of dedicated and qualified staff, carefully chosen for their professional and personal qualities. We offer places before school and after school and bringing them back to the clubs after school in the people carriers.

During school holidays you are responsible for bringing your children to the clubs and collecting them.

We provide a warm, friendly and stimulating environment, a place especially for 5 – 14 year olds. During the term time we encourage children to develop skills already being taught at schools. Children enjoy arts and crafts, reading, games, and computers with educational and fun software. If children have homework we ensure time is set aside after school to work without distraction and we are there to offer help if they need it. If parents prefer the homework can be done at home and the children can participate in the various activities available. The out of school scheme is designed to offer a fun and relaxed environment, giving you peace of mind with the knowledge that your children are being safely cared for whilst you are able to continue working. We encourage children to express themselves as individuals and we work closely with you to make their time spent in our out-of-school clubs a rewarding and happy experience.

During the school holidays we aim to make children's clubs as enjoyable as possible; we send out an itinerary of holiday activities in advance. Through all their experiences they are continually learning and exploring. They have day trips and visits to the local park, to participate in ball games and parachute games and great fun. Team sports are highly featured; creative topics and simple cookery are also incorporated into the holiday timetable.

A wide variety of other activities are also available. These comprise of learning games, educational computers, reading books, arts and crafts, leisure games, physical education equipment and musical instruments. The activities provide opportunities for children to develop their creativity, to express themselves and promote social interaction. Children are encouraged to respect one another.

The clubs are self-contained and located on the first floor of the nursery, with secure entrance, garden and private car parking spaces. The premises are built to very high standard. We are superbly situated in a private business park.

The separate clubs enables us to provide activities that compliment the age of your child. Children have many opportunities to widen their understanding and enhance their development enjoying many different experiences in a friendly environment with qualified staff.

There is a purpose built play area which is completely enclosed and ensures security and privacy. The play area has three playgrounds; a grassed area, a wood bark area and a safety rubber surface area. There are climbing frames and slides, and a sandpit to add to a child's enjoyment of outdoor play.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We, at The Kindergarten, understand the importance of partnership with parents. We have introduced a number of quality checks so we can make sure that our Nursery is the very best. It's a two way process so we thought it might be fun to do things together.

Children's Progress

Your child's individual progress is evaluated and fed back to you on a regular basis.

Quality Checks

Feedback from our parents is an essential element to improving the quality within The Kindergarten; please feedback to us any compliments or complaints. We also conduct an Annual Parent satisfaction survey.

We also have other ways that parents can become involved at The Kindergarten:

- ❖ Parents' Evenings (usually held every term)
- ❖ Christmas Parties
- ❖ Christmas Concerts
- ❖ Sports Day
- ❖ Newsletters to keep you informed of new developments
- ❖ Nominate staff for rewards

All staff are selected on an equal opportunity basis, following a scored selection process and references. Our staff have qualifications, experience and training in childcare (NNEB, CACHE, NVQ, Level 2 and 3 or equivalent). Some junior members are working towards NVQ3. Police and health checks are undertaken. All staff have undertaken a Paediatric First Aid Training approved by OFSTED.

We develop our staff to ensure that we have a happy and motivated team which means that your child receives the best care from a consistent and dedicated key worker and the whole nursery team.

Once appointed our staff are monitored and helped to develop. Every year staff can identify what their training needs and design a programme of training. The Kindergarten will then arrange training to meet their needs. This means that our staff are continuously updating their skills, knowledge and experience.

In House training as well as external training events are accessed depending on the organisational and individual training needs.

OPENING HOURS

We know how demanding it is to juggle children and work and have tried to make our facility flexible to meet your needs.

The Kindergarten opens from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. Sessional and part time places are available. Early starts from 7.30am are available at extra costs. There is a charge of £5 for every fifteen minutes outside these times.

WHAT TO DO NOW?

If you would like to visit The Kindergarten and Out of School Club, please do contact us by Telephone 01993 700123 or email us to info@the-kindergarten.com. We would be delighted to show you around the nursery.

After visiting us, if you wish to book a place for either full or part time, then please complete the registration form. The registration forms will be available at your initial visit. Please return the completed form along with your registration fee of £15.

Please see our fee schedule for more information.

Fees are paid monthly in advance and are calculated on the basis of The Kindergarten being open 52 weeks a year. There is no reduction in fees for absence due to holidays or sickness. Once a place has been confirmed we introduce visits which are beneficial to both yourselves and your child. The visits are an important introduction prior to their starting date. It is also recommended that a minimum of two sessions are booked, these can be either full day or half day sessions.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you need further information, or would like to see The Kindergarten in action, please call us either on 01993 700123 or 01993 700456 or email us to info@the-kindergarten.com