

Outdoor Play

Little Swans has a large outdoor play area, consisting of: a large sand pit, climbing trail, climbing apparatus, painting easel, hard surface areas for bikes, scooters, and prams as well as a large astro turf area for soft play etc.

All equipment varied and age related. We also have an undercover area and Planting areas so we can grow our own fruit and vegetables..

Staff

Our nursery nurses are fully qualified and experienced, with the exception of apprentices working towards their qualification; either a level 2 or 3 in Early Years . The ratio of staff to children complies with OFSTED requirements. All staff are fully committed to an equal opportunity policy regardless of sex, colour, age, religion and disabilities. The management team who are **Mrs Boulton** Proprietor, **Sam Tranter** Manager and **Rose Sargent** Assistant Manager, work closely with the nursery nurses, who are experienced and committed professionals, to ensure the high standards of care are met at all times.

Have a look on our website. We recognise the importance of on-going training for all staff and the owner and both managers all have a Degree in Early Years. Rose Sargent is a fully qualified teacher. Mrs Boulton and Miss Tranter have a Level 5 in First Line Management. Supervisors all have at least a level 3 in Early Years and all have completed either a management or team leading qualification. We feel strongly that on-going training for all staff ensures best practice throughout the nursery in making sure all children reach their full potential.

Meals

We recognise the importance of a well balanced diet for young children, and we therefore provide a varied menu of nutritious meals, attractively presented and prepared in our kitchen, by **Karen and Dee**. **Parents help to plan the menus which are changed twice a year in the summertime and winter.**

All individual needs, including religious, cultural or medical dietary requirements, are catered for. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea is served, with a light snack mid-morning and late afternoon. Vegetarian and Halal are catered for daily. **We are dedicated followers of healthy choices; with our own three-week rolling menu planned by parents based on the recommended 5 portions a day menu suggestions!!**

We have won an award from Birmingham NHS NET, for our nutritious well-planned menus, as well as **Birmingham's Healthy Settings Award.**

We have also been awarded a **5H rating** (this is the highest you can obtain!) from Birmingham Health Authority for our health, hygiene and cleanliness within the catering environment; and have held this award for the last 11 years. Many of the dishes cooked are made from scratch and the kitchen staff take pride in the presentation. Every day when the children are near the kitchen they will call out "What's for dinner today?" and end with an "Mmmmm!" when Karen calls out the menu for the day!

Fees

Our fees are paid weekly or monthly in advance by direct debit, cash or nursery vouchers.

Payments need to be continued in the event of illness or holiday, including Bank Holidays, in order to retain the place. **Four weeks' notice is needed to terminate the contract.**

In order to reserve a place, one full week's money will be required. This is non refundable should you need to cancel for any reason.

Monday to Friday

7.30am - 6.00pm

51 weeks of the year (excluding Bank Holidays)

Full time attendance hours

7.30am – 6.00pm

Part time attendance hours

7.30am – 12.30pm

1.00pm – 6.00pm

(hours vary for children in receipt of government grant)

Our aim is to provide a safe and caring environment in which you will be happy to leave your child.

Children need to feel they are in safe and loving surroundings, in order to settle down happily. At *Little Swans* we have many ways of providing this reassuring atmosphere, but a key factor for most young children is building a relationship with, or attachment to, the people who are caring for them. As it is hard for children to come into a new setting and make several attachments at the same time, at *Little Swans* we help the children separate from their parents by providing a key person system. This means that one adult in the setting will take responsibility for your child, and they will build a special relationship with each other.

The key person will carry out a home visit, with another staff member prior to your child starting at the setting. Please refer to our Home Visit Policy for details. Parents must live within a 3-mile radius of the setting.

Children tend to feel more reassured when they know what to expect. This means that routines and consistency are important in each area of the nursery. Therefore, our routines are flexible, but are structured enough for our children to be able to anticipate what is likely to happen next – for example, to know that after going outside they will be washing their hands and going to the toilet, if needed, and that after story time, they will be having lunch. We understand that this is also an anxious time for parents and by providing lots of information on our website, blog and twitter page as well as monthly newsletters and regular feedback we ensure parents are kept up to date and involved in nursery life at *Little Swans*. We also offer termly stay and play sessions at Yardley Library which enable parents to become involved in their child's learning as well as share ideas.

Frequent staff meetings on a weekly and monthly basis, along with policies, ensure that we work together in a consistent way so that children in our care feel secure within the nursery environment.

We are an educational nursery and follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework curriculum for children in all areas.

Termly we have a different topic that we plan lots of exciting activities around. Please have a look at our latest OFSTED report. This details our positive approach towards childcare and children's education through The Early Years Foundation Stage. **Each child has a "Learning Journey", which is a journal of their days at nursery, from start to finish. A lovely keepsake, Wonderful!**