

Tortoise Nursery

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About us!

Our Mission Statement

To impart high quality childcare which enhances a learning adventure from birth to school and beyond

- Privately owned by Councillor Joy Francis and opened in September 2000.
- We have an Ofsted rating of 'Good' (2017), a Food Hygiene rating of 5 (2017), we are breastfeeding friendly and finalists in the Nursery Recognition Awards 2018 for 'Best Staff' category!
- Managed by an experienced and innovative childcare practitioner with over 13 years' experience in Early Years.
- Tortoise Nursery is an adapted building on the Morris Care Home site and has disabled access.



What Makes Us Unique?



- The nursery is divided between only 2 small, age appropriate well-resourced rooms that promote a family feeling
- We have a separate 'art studio' and 'sensory area' too!
- We visit our elderly friends at Morris Care and Oakwood regularly to support children's development and help support the well-being of others.
- As often as possible, we walk down into Wellington, visit the market, donate to the charity shops or visit local attractions
- At least once a term we aim to take all children to the local library to foster a love of books.
- We enjoy using recycled, open-ended, authentic 'real life' resources to foster children's curiosity, awe, wonder, creativity and critical thinking skills!
- We do 'In the moment planning' for most of our activities; this means we only do what the children enjoy and use their interests to extend and develop their learning.
- The staff have a limited amount of paperwork to complete monthly, so this ensures the children receive 99.9% of our time!

Baby and Toddler room

- Registered for up to 12 children at any one time
- Age range: 3 months – 26/30 months
- Adult to child ratio 1 : 3 (under 24 months)
- Adult to child ratio 1 : 4 (over 24 months)
- Staff trained and experienced in working with 2-year-old children and babies.
- Children learn from each other through interactive, heuristic, sensory activities; indoor and outdoor.
- Routines and activities are all based around children's interests, schemas (behaviours!) and individual needs where required.



Preschool

- Registered for up to 24 children at any one time
- Age range: 30 months – 60 months
- Adult to child ratio 1 : 4 (under 36 months)
- Adult to child ratio 1 : 8 (over 36 months)
- Activities are based on children's interests and our innovative style of 'teaching' provides children with the skills they need to feel ready for school.
- Authentic resources provide a magical experience in our 'real-life' home corner.... say 'yes please' to a cup of tea served from a real teapot in a china teacup!
- Outdoor learning, building independence and social skills are paramount to our Preschool ethos.



Outdoor Learning

'There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing'

- Our outdoor area is safe and secure; it offers a mud kitchen, mark making materials, role play area, music area and a 'Reading house'.
- Tyres, crates, planks and loose building materials allow children's imagination to go 'wild' and allow children to develop their risk-taking skills.
- Experienced practitioner's support outdoor learning by providing exciting and challenging opportunities to keep them healthy and build understanding of the importance of exercise.
- Whenever possible, staff use the local green space and park to encourage climbing and gross motor skills.
- We also have access to a small area to provide a 'Forest School' experience weekly where children become one with nature!



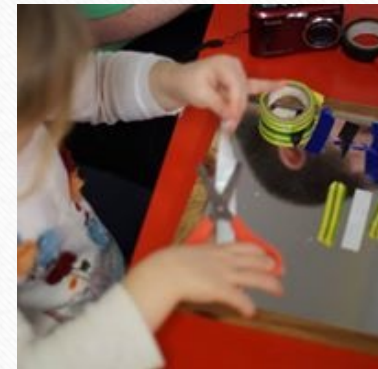
The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS is the curriculum and statutory framework our practice is moulded by. Every member of staff uses the 'Early learning outcomes' to provide tailored development support through activities and their relationships. You will see how the EYFS themes fit into our policies and procedures and how our planning structure and daily practices reflect the themes to meet government strategies in line with OFSTED



Learning and development

- We are committed to the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- The EYFS is central to our provision allowing children to learn through play, experience and opportunity both indoors and outdoors
- We believe that play strengthens all development and learning of young children
- Our environment supports every child's learning through planned experiences and activities that are challenging but achievable
- It is through this approach we believe that children develop intellectually, creatively, physically, socially and emotionally.
- Each child will have 'next steps' in varied areas dependent on their individual needs. We work together with our families to ensure these are accurate and amended accordingly when progress has been recorded.



Meet the team!

- We are a small, friendly and vibrant team with 3 out of 7 of us having over 6 years of service to the setting!
- All staff are qualified in Early Years from level 2 – 5 and are committed to the continuous development of our skills and training
- All staff have a first aid certificates and have undergone full DBS checks.
- Staff are trained in a variety of complementary areas i.e. Forest school, physical education, special educational needs, safer sleeping, nutrition, team leading, management and customer service.
- We are passionate about children's care, learning and development and use several theories to inspire our nurturing techniques to support the childhood of our unique little people.
- We are led by an inspirational manager who believes in maintaining a forward-thinking approach, using reflective practice and the children's development, contentment and feedback as 'targets'.
- Having a small team ensures all children build relationships with every member- this enables a smooth transition within the setting and our staff consistency aids the settling in period.
- We prioritise staff interactions and child -initiated learning over paperwork; this is evident through our innovative and inspiring process to documenting children's progress and development.
- We plan most of the children's activities based on children's interests, their behaviours and parent/carer advice.... we plan in the moment which means anything can happen as the children are engaged in open ended opportunities with only their own objectives in mind!

Testimonials from our families!

- Since our daughter started at Tortoise Nursery she has grown in confidence. She started in the midst of the pandemic but she has settled in so unbelievably well and has learnt so much, it really does amaze us! She is happy, content and full of curiosity and most importantly she loves going to nursery! My only wish was that I had found the Tortoise nursery when my eldest was younger.

Emily's Mom

- Our experience of Tortoise Nursery had been wonderful, Bonnie joined just after her 3rd birthday and has flourished. Your team are so supportive and we feel like you look after Bonnie like a family member, guiding her, developing her and allowing her to bloom. Our only regret is that she won't have more time with you. Thank you for everything.

Bonnie's Mom

Our son started Tortoise when he was 3, he was always very unsettled at his pervious setting but Steph was brilliant and went above and beyond to settle him even during the pandemic and would allow me to stay in the garden with him until he was confident to go into the nursery.

We can't believe how quickly he settled and now 7-8 months on how he has become more confident and loves to attend nursery and has made so many friend we will be sad for him to leave in September for school but will definitely be sending his baby brother!

Freddie's Mom

We looked at different provisions including one closer to home, which were larger than Tortoise. Even as an adult these felt daunting! We looked at Tortoise after seeing it in social media, and we loved it, small provision where the pride in the children was demonstrated. We loved the wall displays and all the personal touches, it was great not to see plastic toys everywhere (we have enough at home) and that messy play was no issue.

When she started the staff were welcoming and understood the transition may be tricky, let's not mention nap times. However after nearly 3 years coming to tortoise, my daughter is confident, learning about not only curriculum, but also how to be a good person and lots of life skills. She loves showing off her way she puts her coat on.

As it's a small staff team, we feel that every staff member knows our daughters personality, emotions and ability so there's consistency. We also found the contact between toddlers and preschool was wonderful, almost like a mentorship in transitioning, and showing them what the "big children" can do.

We are going to be so sad when our daughter has to move on to school.

Thanks

Clare and Phil

Our Fees

We offer 4 sessions all year around:

- Full day 07.30 - 6.00
£ 47.00
- Short day 08.30-3.30
£42.00
- AM session 07.30 – 1.00
£35.00
- PM session 1.00 – 6.00
£33.00

FUNDING ONLY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE-PLEASE ASK
FOR MORE DETAILS.

Offers!

- A £15.00 per week discount is available when booking a full-time place
 - 10% discount for siblings
 - The above offers do not stand when a child is in receipt of funding.
 - Term time only @ plus £5 per session
- Please ask for other offers we may have at the time and check for availability on flexible bookings.

Other information:

- A refundable deposit of £50.00 is required
- A non-refundable admin fee of £5.00 is also required
- Terms and conditions must be signed and returned
- We invoice a month in advance
- We accept childcare vouchers, Tax free childcare and the 30 hours funding
- Payment is preferred in cash or bank transfer by the 1st of the month.
- Weekly payments are accepted where a standing order has been verified
- You are not charged for bank holidays but will be charged for children's sick days and your holiday days.
- We offer limited 2, 3 and 4-year-old funding only places (7.5 hours per day only) and there is a £5 per day charge for snacks and lunch.

What's next?

- Contact Steph to arrange a visit, ask your questions and see how the setting runs. You can collect registration forms at your visit and check availability.
- To reserve your childcare place return completed forms with the required deposit.
- Arrange taster sessions- you may have two sessions at 2 hours*; these can be taken how you wish- talking to the staff in the room and playing alongside your child or having a cup of tea in our staff room to see how they settle alone. *If more sessions are required this can be arranged dependent on the needs of the child
- On your first day (or week!), we welcome 'check-up' phone calls and encourage any advice you can offer to ensure your child will settle well! Any comforters or own toys/books may be brought in for the settling in process. This can be lengthy, so please do not worry if your child takes some time- we are very used to settling transitions and pride ourselves on this usually being quite quick!

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting your little one!

The Tortoise Team