



Parental Partnerships



At 2 Little Birds Preschool and Childcare we believe that parents and carers are the most important people in children's lives. You are the people who know them the best and you know what you would like for them from a setting. It is important to build a firm foundation and a good relationship with important adults in your children's lives, to ensure we get to know them (almost) as well as you and that we can help them to be secure, happy and ready to thrive. We are excited to get to know you, your child and your family life. We are looking forward to a long and exciting relationship, which will ensure that your child's journey with us is as fulfilling as possible.

NB. When referring to parents, we are including all carers and the terms are interchangeable.

The Provision

The provision operates a child-led, in the moment, planning ethos and as such adults in the setting are well equipped to ensure that activities taking place are relevant, inspiring and exciting in the eyes of the children. In addition to this there will be more 'structured planned' activities that children can participate in if they wish. Children have continued access to a large garden and are actively encouraged to investigate and participate in all that is available. We will always make it our aim to support children to become independent, problem solving and resilient learners, preparing them for the further educational journey.

Admissions and Fees

We do not have a set admissions criteria and welcome all children from aged 2 years. Fees are payable one month in advance and one month's notice is required if the child leaves us. A list of fees is available on request. We accept funded hours for both 2 and 3/4 year olds. We accept 30 hours funded. Parents need to provide us with a copy of their code and a copy of their child's birth certificate along with their NI number.

There are additional add-ons that require payment, and this can be found on the fees list.

Taking the Indoors Out (Learning Outside the Classroom - LOTC)

We believe that connecting with nature supports children's wellbeing. In addition to this, most children enjoy the freedom of open space and experiencing such things as the wind in their hair or the rain on their face. Much learning can be gained from understanding about the world around you, and in fact this is a specific area of learning for Early Years. At 2 Little Birds Pre-school and Childcare we cannot emphasise enough the importance we place on allowing children the freedom to be outside. This is a key principle of the owners and staff, and children will always be given access to the outside, unless it is extreme weather. We request that children have a pair of 'wellies' for outside and have a different pair of shoes / slipper socks for inside. For more information on our outside learning ethos please see the LOTC policy (available on request).

Furthermore, the inside will also always be open. We know every child is unique and therefore will not deny children the right to choose where their learning takes place.

Settling

At 2 Little Birds Pre-school and Childcare we actively encourage parents to help their children to settle in when they arrive at nursery. We are happy for you to stay and do this but are equally happy if parents wish to leave immediately. You know your child best and we are happy to work with you to ensure that they are happy and settled in pre-school

Activities and the Daily Routine

When children arrive for their session, the gate will be opened, and they will enter to play in the garden. Children are encouraged to enter independently and to self-register using the “bee on the tree” system.

We plan in the moment (PITM) this is a way of planning observing and assessing that we feel fits well with our ethos and this cycle will be explained to you at your children’s induction. Children are given long periods of uninterrupted play during which times practitioners will interact, engage and support children, whilst observing and extending pupils through ‘teachable moments.

We have snack at around 10am and 2pm. This is a communal snack where the children all sit together and are given opportunities to chat to friends and to try new foods.

We have planned circle times in each session, and this mostly focus on phase 1 letters and sounds (phonics) in a fun child friendly way. These are adult led and we call these sessions “if you’re 3 come play with me”. This is then followed by a second session later on in the school year “if you’re four do a little bit more”. Each session ends with tidy up time, singing and stories.

Polite Notice

We ask that all parents are considerate and respectful to our neighbours during drop off and pick times.

Uniform

2 Little Birds Pre-school and Childcare does have a non-compulsory uniform. This is available to order from us, it comprises of round neck t-shirts and sweatshirts. We do recommend that children wear suitable clothing that you are happy to get dirty, as they will be outside and are likely to get muddy. We request that children have a pair of ‘wellies’ for the garden and indoor shoes. We are happy for children to wear non-slip slipper socks inside. In addition to this, we request that children have appropriate outdoor wear at all times, this includes coat, hat and scarf in the winter and sun hat, sun screen in the summer.

Healthy Eating

It is policy for 2 Little Birds Pre-school and Childcare to provide all drinks and meals, including snacks. Lunch is currently charged at £4.00 per day and we ask parents for a snack contribution each week. This money helps to cover the cost of not only snack but cooking ingredients and various other consumables such as shaving foam, rice, bubble mixture etc.

All meals and snack will be healthy options and a copy of the weekly menu is available for children who will be having breakfast or dinner. Dietary requirements can be catered for, please provide specific detail if applicable. We have a strict no fish or nut policy which must be adhered to.

Learning and development

Children are born ready, able and eager to learn. 'They actively reach out to interact with other people and in the world around them' [*Development matters (2014)*]. At 2 Little Birds Pre-school and Childcare we strongly believe in the themes running through the principles of the Early Years Framework. Children are unique and each can succeed with the support of positive relationships with adults who provide enabling environments.

Children will follow the Early Years Framework and evidence of their learning will be uploaded to their Tapestry journal. In addition to this key worker produce a 'Watch me Grow' book. When your child is 2, learning will be focused on the three prime areas of learning.

1. Personal, social, health and emotional
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

At the age of 3 in addition to the three prime areas we will begin to observe and record evidence for the four other areas of learning, the specific areas of;

1. Mathematics
2. Literacy
3. Understanding the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design.

Most learning will be led by the child's interest and through their play and interaction with adults.

Sharing home learning

We actively encourage children to share news from home with us and, on occasion, we will ask parents for their input to support a child's learning. This may be offered in a number of ways; news sharing, development updates, visits from family members and sharing of special occasions, festivals and celebrations. To support evidence gathering of child development we actively encourage parents to share milestones and learning achievements.

Child Welfare and Safeguarding

The EYFS provides comprehensive guidance on maintaining a safe and healthy indoor and outside environment, on ensuring enough staff are suitably trained and supported, and provides detailed information on all necessary policies and procedures for all early year's settings. All staff have appropriate training in these statutory and welfare areas, and continually update this. Copies of policies are also available on our website, or hard copies are available on request. we request that you ensure that you have read and understood the following policies and that signing of this partnership agreement is proof that you have done so;

Safeguarding

Complaints

We take safeguarding your children as our number one priority and have robust procedures in place to ensure this is the case.

As part of our safeguarding policy, we ask that you do not share any images or other material pertaining to 2 little birds, its staff or pupils in any social or digital medium. Furthermore we ask that you do not friend request staff personally or send personal messages regarding the pre-school, policies or its pupils.

Key Person

We understand the importance of positive relationships and fully support the idea of a key person. A key person is an adult within the setting who your child can form a close bond with. A key person can help a child to feel safe, secure and settled. Your child's key person should be your first point of contact for any concerns, questions or queries that you may have. They will be expected to feed back to parents verbally, daily to inform the parent how the child's day was. The key person will also be responsible for keeping 'Watch me Grow' books up to date and for carrying out the 2 year old check. For a list of full responsibilities for a key person please ask for a copy of the Key Person Policy.

Please sign and return the last page of this document as acknowledgment of receipt of the Parental Partnership booklet.

We/I the parent/Carer/Guardian of _____
acknowledge receipt of and have read the parental partnership document.

Signed _____

Dated _____

