

BURTON PARK NURSERY

The Guided Tour



Burton Latimer Day Nursery at Burton Park occupies a half-acre site adjacent to the sports fields. The 460 sq. mtrs. of ground floor accommodation provides the ideal location for this high quality, resourceful childcare and pre-school education centre, serving both Burton Latimer and Barton Seagrave as well as the surrounding areas.

With a caring staff team of fully qualified nursery nurses and trainees, children from 12 weeks to school age can be looked after in a warm, safe environment whilst their parents either work or take a break to carry out those everyday chores such as shopping, that can be a lot easier without having to keep a constant eye on their children.

A particular nursery nurse (key-worker) is assigned to each child, who will meet them when they arrive and look after their every need as the session progresses. Continuity of relationship between child and adult is just one of the important factors in making the nursery as homely as possible and somewhere the child will look forward to coming each time.

Children over 2 are grouped in mixed ages, again to simulate a family situation. Some activities are carried out in these groups whilst others will involve only the younger or older ones. Although there is no fixed programme of activities, certain things happen at the same time each day, such as snack time and story telling. For organised activities like cooking or a craft project, children will be encouraged to take part but if they would rather rest or withdraw to carry out something individually, they will be allowed to do so.

The children are constantly supervised, albeit sometimes at a distance, to allow them to interact with each other and enjoy imaginative play in the home corner or dressing up.

Supervision is always carried out whilst children use the toilet facilities. These clean bright areas have child size toilets and wash-basins together with potties and a nappy changing area for the younger children.

The nursery has provision for eighteen babies aged between three and approximately fifteen months. Our three baby rooms have plenty of colourful, stimulating toys for this younger age group and areas of soft carpet floor covering on top of the safe and comfortable underfloor heating. A senior nursery nurse takes responsibility in each baby room with assistance by other qualified members of the staff team. Cots are available in each baby room for day time naps together with plenty of prams in which babies can sleep whilst enjoying the fresh outside air.

When steady on their feet and able to walk, at around fifteen months, babies will move up to the toddler group that has its own base room and dedicated staff. Toddlers will spend some of their time in this room with age appropriate toys and equipment, and other times, often in small groups, visiting the other areas of the nursery both inside and out.

At lunch time (12-12.30) hands are washed and all those staying for a meal sit down on child size chairs in the dining area to enjoy fresh healthy food prepared by our own cook. We are proud to have been presented with a 'Heartbeat Award' for our high standard of healthy catering. The youngsters, utilising children's cutlery and colourful melamine crockery, are encouraged to feed themselves as much as possible but help is always on hand to assist when required. Table manners are taught and encouraged to be put into practice at this important part of the day.

An extensive menu has been devised, generally without repeat, to provide children with the experience of a wide variety of foods including those most enjoyed by the youngsters. Individual children requiring special diets for medical or religious reasons etc. can always be accommodated.

Quiet activities continue after lunch whilst waiting for the arrival of children for the afternoon session. Some children, especially the younger ones, may need a sleep after lunch so we have a dedicated sleep room adjacent to the toddler area that is constantly supervised by a member of staff.

Children learn through experience and therefore all the activities undertaken in the nursery aim to educate through play or our structured education programme, which is planned and delivered by our qualified early years teaching staff. As an approved provider of Nursery Education for 3 and 4 year olds, activities for this age group are planned from the Foundation Stage Curriculum which works towards the Early Learning Goals, a process which continues when children move on to reception classes at school. More details about the Nursery's educational work are in our separate leaflet 'Nursery Education - Information for Parents' or the Education page of our website.

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Self-control is another area where children have to learn what is an acceptable level of behaviour and what is not. On no account will any member of staff physically discipline a child. Unacceptable behaviour will be modified by possibly withdrawing the child from a particular activity to one where there is less likelihood of the behaviour continuing. Parents will always be fully informed about, and should support, the action taken.

When the weather allows, and with parents permission, outings to the park or a walk along the footpath are encouraged. A maximum of two children to each adult is insisted on for these exciting expeditions.

Apart from the baby and toddler rooms, the other main nursery area caters for children over two. Here you will find the book corner, the quiet area for table games, jigsaw puzzles, computer activities and pre-school education, and the dressing up and home corner. Also the wet and messy play area, with non-slip vinyl floor, accommodates the sand and water trays, paint easels and craft tables. The results of the children's imaginative work are gaily exhibited on the many display boards throughout the premises. These are constantly changed and parents are encouraged to take home their youngsters masterpieces.

Both the toddler room and the room for older children have areas for constructive play, sometimes with building toys such as Popoids, Duplo and Mobilo, sit and ride toys, train sets or cars. At other times the toys can be moved to the side to clear a large carpeted floor area for music, singing, dancing and group games.

All three baby rooms, the toddler area and the room for the over two's have double doors that open out on to a fully enclosed garden area. Some parts have rubber safety surfacing which is ideal for crawling on and safe if tumbling off a toy. Other areas are grassed for ball games etc. A long and winding path leads from the safety surface, across the grass and through the trees that provide a very natural area for observation and discovery. The path then emerges at a lower level and finishes at a large turning area. Children enjoy trips along the path, either on foot or using one of the many bikes or sit-and-ride toys. The whole area is easily supervised by the staff. When the weather allows, children are encouraged to use the outside area as much as possible, taking part in the similar wide variety of activities that are undertaken inside.

Variety is the spice of life within the nursery, with new ideas, different activities and changing displays, constantly providing a stimulating and happy environment, albeit with the reassuring consistent child/adult relationship essential to the youngsters development that will shape the rest of their lives.

In planning the nursery, quality was uppermost in our thoughts.

QUALITY of premises

QUALITY of equipment

QUALITY of staff

QUALITY in the learning experiences the children receive

QUALITY of adult interaction with the children

QUALITY in the activities we offer the children

Achieving all this has not been easy but a visit to the nursery will confirm that if you were under 5, you would love to come and spend some time with us.