



Thinking about keeping your child at (or sending your child to) Hardings Nursery and Pre-School for their Nursery Year?

At Hardings Nursery and Pre-School we recognise that each family and child are unique; the decision to send your child to a Nursery maintained by Hertfordshire County Council or our privately run nursery should be based on your individual needs and what will suit you & your child best.

Here we would like to share with you what we can offer your Nursery aged child:

Our achievements

Our Pre-School was graded Outstanding in all 17 areas by Ofsted in November 2015

, We are one of only a handful of local Early Years providers to have achieved this coveted accolade.

Delivery of the same EYFS curriculum as School Nurseries

At Hardings we have a holistic approach to each child's learning, development & care; placing the same level of focus on each child's health and well-being as the 7 areas of learning & development. Our EYFS provision is supported by Claire Mason, who has completed her Early Years Professional Status, which is the equivalent to qualified Teacher status in Early Years.

High ratios of staff to children

There are 6 members of staff at Hardings Nursery and Pre-School; all of whom are either Level 3 qualified, working towards their Level 3 qualification or above. We operate at (at least) 1 member of staff per 8 children aged 3-4.

Nursery Group

We have a dedicated Nursery Group, headed up by Claire Starkey (Afternoon Deputy Manager/Senior Early years Practitioner) and supported by Yvette Meyrick (L3 practitioner). Claire and Yvette work closely with our Nursery aged children and their parents to deliver appropriate learning opportunities and to prepare them for the transition to 'big school'.

Parent Partnership

We pride ourselves on a strong parent partnership and a personal approach. Our dedicated team of staff are always available during session times to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have. We are even available out-of-hours for those times when it just can't wait.....

Facilities

We have created an enabling environment which challenges, stimulates and meets the needs of children aged between the ages of 2 and 5. We recognise that all children are individuals and develop at their own pace; there is no requirement for children to be fully toilet-trained when attending our setting. Our high levels of staff mean that we are happy to fully support children and their families who are working towards achieving this important developmental milestone.

A flexible approach

As a privately run setting, we have the ability to allow you to use your 15 or 30 hours of free Nursery Education flexibly. We offer a number of session options Monday to Friday, including morning (09:00 - 12:00), lunch club (12:00 - 13:00), afternoon (12:00-15:00) and full day sessions (09:00 – 15:00, 6 hours).

Transitions

There is no doubt that transitions can be stressful for children and parents alike. By choosing to leave your child at Pre-School for their nursery year, you will be reducing the number of transitions they experience during their Early Years. Children get the best from an Early Years setting when they feel secure, happy and relaxed.

Another factor to consider is that just because you get into the Hertfordshire County Council maintained Nursery School of your choice, there is no guarantee that you will get a place in Reception at that same school. Potentially resulting in another transition later on.

Of course, if you do choose to send your child on to a Nursery School, we fully respect that decision and have a number of strategies in place to reduce the impact the transition will have your child and yourselves as a family, including visits to our setting by the Nursery School Teacher, Transition Books which include photographs of all of the local School Nurseries and their Nursery staff teams.

Outside agencies

We have developed close working partnerships with a number of Early Years professional s/agencies including the local Children Centres, Inclusion Development Officer, Speech& Language Therapists and Health Visitors. We have lots of in-house experience and knowledge but also have a wide range of external resources and contacts available to us.

We hope you have found this document useful but, as always, please feel free to speak to Tina, Claire or Jane if you would like to discuss your child's Nursery Year in more detail.