



~ PROSPECTUS ~



~ LITTLE FISHES SOFT-PLAYSKOOL - PROSPECTUS ~

WELCOME TO BRAUNTON'S PREMIER CHILDREN'S DAY NURSERY

Thank you for your interest in Little Fishes Soft-PlaySkool, where we provide play-based care and education for birth to 5 years for families in the Braunton area. We constantly review and evaluate our practice to ensure we meet and exceed the needs of children and parents who join our family-run nursery 😊



The nursery boasts a lovely soft-play centre, role play area, cosy book corners and sleep room, computer station, designated baby zone and sensory room. In addition the outdoor area provides all-weather play, sand and water opportunities, planting area and sensory herb garden. We also promote bird nesting and wildlife observation. Our provision also benefits from our very own allotment garden which is adjacent to the Great Field, 10/15min walk away. The 18m x 10m plot has a large Summer house, sand and mud-pit, as well as

opportunities for den-building and many more natural play opportunities. Future additions include raised bed areas, living willow fedges and bowers and a firepit for outdoor cooking! Core staff have undertaken introductory Forest school training and the allotment garden is being developed to embrace the Forest school ethos and make the most of learning opportunities outdoors. 😊

Our open-plan facilities are designed to provide a home-from-home nursery experience with free-flow providing time for children to interact with all age groups as well as within their own peer groups, and high staff-child ratios enable staff to plan and conduct activities designed with your child's interests at the centre!

Planning and Ethos



Little Fishes follows the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework devised by the government to bring more emphasis to the 3 Prime Areas which underpin a child's self esteem and provide the building blocks for confident and successful growth. This is still based around our core ethos, which focuses on the importance of child-centred play, and staff planning is extended to meet the needs of each individual child.

All staff are mindful of the 4 overarching principles when planning opportunities and carrying out activities with the children ~

A Unique Child

Enabling Environments

Development

Positive Relationships

Learning and



The 3 Prime Areas of development for the EYFS are:

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development



In addition we also look at Specific Areas of development ~

Literacy

Understanding the World

Mathematics

Expressive Arts and Design

Little Fishes children can often be seen taking walks with staff in the local community; making use of the local facilities such as the library, post office and museums, feeding the ducks and exploring local woodland and beaches. Within the nursery, toys and equipment are used both traditionally and with a twist ~ for example sand & water play giving opportunities for weighing and measuring, may run alongside spaghetti and baked beans for more creative opportunities!!



All opportunities, whether planned or spontaneous, are used to extend the children's learning experience - with staff using careful questioning and explanation to support the children's natural curiosity.



Music and Movement is used throughout the nursery as an aid to children's learning and physical and emotional health and the children enjoy our very own weekly **Noisy Nippers** session from **Cathy** 😊 We also enjoy other visits and sessions which are arranged from time to time, to bring our learning topics alive and provide fantastic opportunities for the children to experience.

The layout of each nursery is carefully designed to reduce segregation and promote an inclusive environment where all age groups have opportunities to intermix, as well as have time in their own age groups - benefiting sibling and children with specific needs and helping children to understand the needs of others as well as validating their own sense of identity.

We provide a progress check at 2-3yrs and also an EYFS profile at 4yr to aid transition into Primary School - we pride ourselves on strong links with a variety of Primary Schools in the Braunton, surrounding villages and beyond... supporting a smooth move for your child, whichever Primary School you choose.

Staffing



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

At Little Fishes Soft-PlaySkool your team of dedicated and qualified staff have been hand-picked to ensure that not only do they hold the right skills and experience to support your child but also that they are loving and genuinely passionate about children and the 'importance of play' ethos that we have at the nurseries. Each child is designated a Key Worker who oversees their development and keeps you fully informed about their well-being and progress at our nursery.

Within the nurseries we have high staff:child ratios, which exceed government regulations, to enable one-to-one care as well as group play throughout the working day. On walks or trips, out and about we maintain a 1:2 ratio with younger children - one child for each hand!! It is particularly important that staff relationships are fostered effectively to ensure a happy and relaxed atmosphere within which the children have fantastic role-models to support your parenting. A happy staff base makes for a happy and settled environment for your child and we are thrilled to have been awarded the Investor in People Award.

Importance of Parents or Primary Carers



Here at Little Fishes we believe that the parental, or primary care, bond is essential and therefore work very closely to ensure that communication between staff and family is nurtured.

This is done in a variety of ways ~

- Daily Information sharing in individual Message Books
- Regular Newsletters
- Twice yearly Parent/Staff Open Evenings - and we are happy to be flexible to talk when you need us.
- Exclusive coffee mornings each term, with interesting, informative talks: such as the 'Let's Talk More' initiative, 'Cranio-Sacral Therapy' and other child-related topics.
- Notice boards in each entrance area provide regular updates on what's going on in your branch
- Our Website www.littlefishes.net is regularly updated with news and information. It also provides detailed information about staff, policies & procedures and terms & conditions.
- We also provide support and advice for the more difficult aspects of childrearing and can tackle weaning, teething, potty-training and challenging behaviour along the way, as we know

how hard it can sometimes be - especially first time around!



As part of our holistic approach to childcare we are proud to be linked with Home Start, a UK-wide charity which helps families with young children deal with whatever life throws at them! We also link with the Children's Centre, Food & Nutrition and Speech & Language experts. Please ask for more information on this and the many other agencies we link with, and how we can help put you in touch with additional care and support for you and your little ones.



Safety & Security

Safety is paramount at Little Fishes and we have regular health and safety checks, cleaning rotas and a very strict security procedure for anyone picking up your child. Little Fishes Soft-PlaySkool is here for you and your child and parental views are very important to us. We encourage regular feedback, both in the nursery and via the feedback area of the website. Our Policies and Procedures are regularly reviewed and revised to take into account your needs as well as legislative changes. Parents will be advised of any changes that occur and if we are unable to make any changes that you suggest we always try to give clear reasons as to why. We also promote healthy

living with provision of healthy snacks and drinks, water throughout the day and lots of outdoor play and physical play in our unique soft-play structures - Healthy Living is also a regular theme running through our planning topics during the year.

Opening Times and Pricing

Our nursery opening times are 7.30 - 5.30, Monday to Friday.



Sessions are flexible within these hours as follows ~



Drop off - 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00 or 12.45

Pick up - 12.15, 3.00, 4.30, 5.00 or 5.30

We will be happy to provide mid-session snacks and drinks on demand but would ask that children attending all day be provided with a packed lunch. The hourly rates for each age group, from **April 25th 2022** are as follows:

- Under 2's - £6.40/hr
- 2-3s - £6.10/hr
- 3+ - £5.75/hr

We also close for all statutory bank holidays and we shut between Christmas and New Year. 50% reduction for holiday where notice has been given at least 4 weeks in advance. No charge is made if the nursery itself is closed.

The nursery remains open through the summer. We provide 'Early Years Education Funded' sessions for ALL 3-5yr olds and also '2gether' funding for children aged 2yrs who meet the eligibility criteria. You can claim up to 30hr per week Term Time only, or 23hr per week All Year round. We can also advise on Voucher funding, Tax Credits and other ways to make your childcare a little more affordable.



To support the child's sense of ownership in their nursery we have a range of uniform and other articles with our lovely bright embroidered logos of the Little Fishes Characters. Please ask for a full list of colours, sizes and prices.

In this pamphlet we have aimed to provide a summary of information about our nursery. Full details of current Topics, Policies & Procedures, Terms & Conditions and Staff names and qualifications can be found on our website at www.littlefishes.net ~ If you have any further questions or would like to arrange a viewing at either nursery (if you haven't already done so) please contact us by phone or email at the addresses below.

We feel confident we can meet the needs of you and your child and look forward to you joining the Little Fishes Family!

Viewing Date.....

Questions/Notes.....

Sessions requested.....

Weekly Cost £



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