



Little Owls Woodland Pre-School



A Better future

www.youthoptions.org.uk

About Us

Little Owls Woodland Pre-School is an Ofsted registered Pre-School nestled in it's own private, self contained woodland at Itchen Valley Country Park.

We are an outdoor setting that runs Monday to Thursday, during the term time only, with a small and highly qualified team of Early Years Practitioners.

We adopt the Forest School ethos and provide stimulating and engaging activities across the EYFS curriculum to support fundamental, first-hand experiences, whilst encouraging safe risk taking. The children learn through nature and unique experiences, learning skills that they may not have the opportunity to learn at home or in a classroom.

We ask parents/carers to consider the challenges children may have with being permanently outside throughout the year.

Our Woodland Pre-School is part of the Youth Options charity, which has been supporting children and young people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight since 1937.

We believe passionately that every young person has the potential to realise their abilities and aspirations, and to make a valuable contribution to their communities.

We are registered to offer spaces to children from 2 years and 9 months of age and we accept the 2 and 3 year old funding. A member of our team can help you to apply or find out if you are eligible.

Our sessions are 9am – 12pm and 12pm – 3pm during the term.

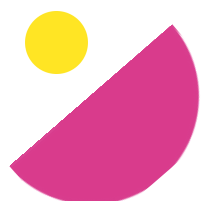


Our Values

Inspiring: We inspire children and young people to achieve their own potential.

Supportive: We create a supportive environment for children, young people, colleagues and partners.

Committed: We are committed to enabling children and young people achieve a better future.



Fees & Charges

There is a £50, non-refundable, administration charge to secure your child's space. This fee includes a free Youth Options t-shirt for your child and a free parking permit.

Sessions:

- Half day: 9 am to 12 pm
- Half day: 12 pm to 3 pm
- Full day: 9 am to 3 pm

Fees are:

- Half day: £22.50-£24
- Full day: £45-£48
- Consumables: £2 for a half day and £4 for a full day (to cover snacks, wipes, sun cream, resources etc).

Minimum booking is two half days or one full day as we believe that this is more beneficial for children's learning and ability to interact with other children and the staff.

Fees are payable on the 1st of each month, in advance. We require a half term's notice if you wish to finish your placement.

Additional hours above your contracted spaces may be booked as ad-hoc sessions, providing we have space.

Once your child turns 3, they are entitled to 15 hours of funded sessions, regardless of family circumstances. Please speak to a member of our team for more information on how to register.



Everyday our daughter is more confident in herself and it's all thanks to the team at the pre-school and their support!

- Parent

Parent Communication

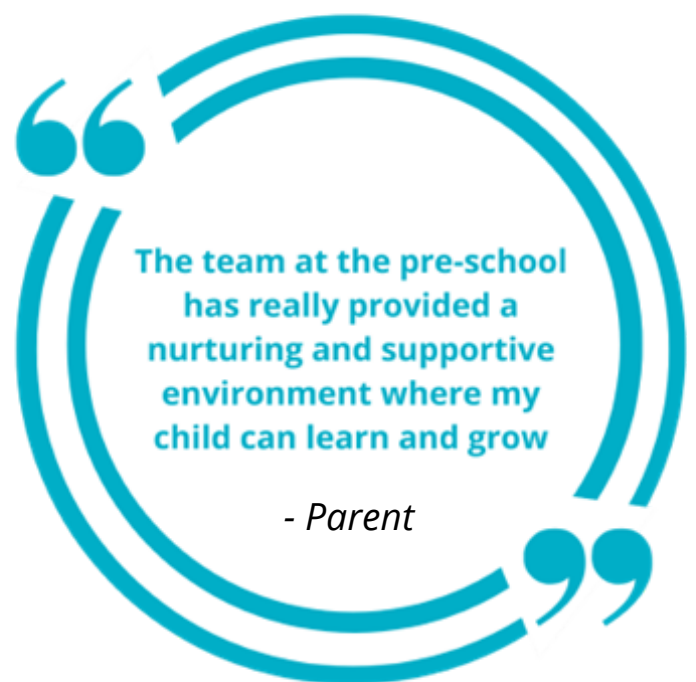
Before your child starts with us, they will be allocated a Key Person, however this may change if we observe that your child is bonding to a particular member of our team.

Your child's Key Person, or the Deputy Pre-School Manager, will be available to talk to you about your child's progress on request.

We use an easy to use and secure online learning journal called Tapestry to share with you your child's experiences, development and learning journey. You can view your child's progress, the activities they have done, and how much fun they're having whilst also uploading your own comments and photos of your child.

This communication between our staff and you helps secure a strong relationship between pre-school and home and keeps you in touch with the progress they are making.

Details of how to log in will be provided on registration.



Curriculum

We offer an educational experience for all children that is centred around your child's interest and needs. Our carefully planned curriculum is designed to engage and inspire children to learn and progress.

We know that it is important to you that your child leaves our pre-school ready and able to settle into school, having gained the skills to give them the foundations to learn, socialise and play. We share that goal and our curriculum is designed to help your child develop and embed skills so that they are ready for that transition and leave with a love of learning, having strong social skills and enjoying exploring the world around them.

We follow the Government's Early Years Statutory Framework and Development Matters (DfE 2021) as supporting guidance to inform our support for your child.

When your child starts at our Pre-School, we evaluate their own needs and development. We ensure that our activities and curriculum support that learning. Every child has a key worker whose role it is to focus on their individual development needs, communicate with you and continuously review how your child is progressing, adapting our support as needed.

We also pride ourselves in offering excellent Special Educational Needs with a dedicated, trained member of staff, who can work with you and your child to support external assessments and adapt the curriculum to suit their needs.



"Children display natural curiosity. They relish independently investigating the richness of their outdoor surroundings. Children make fascinating observations about nature. They match birds they spot in the trees to the species they see in nature books. Staff draw children's attention to unusual varieties of birds flying overhead. In response, children run along the ground together in an effort to see where birds have landed. Other children seek out and study the characteristics of insects crawling over plants. Staff engage well with children during play. They are helpful without being intrusive."

"Staff teach children how to keep themselves safe in a variety of different situations. They remind children to display sensible behaviour as they cautiously peel and chop fruit with small knives. Staff reinforce the rules of cooking food near an open fire. They make sure that children understand how to heat pieces of fruit safely. Children remind friends to stop at the rope barrier and to wait for a member of staff before they move towards the obstacle course"

Ofsted - 2019

Safe Risk Taking

Children are very much part of the process of assessing and monitoring risks at Little Owls and will soon be able to explore a wide range of opportunities safely, with guidance and supervision from our experienced staff team.

We recommend children are dropped off at 9am, in time for our safety walk at 9.30am, as this is an important part of the routine when children are reminded about safety rules that will apply for that day according to the season/weather.

Children are encouraged to use a variety of tools, under the supervision of our qualified staff, and create some amazing things using the natural resources found around them.

Due to the level of risk with outdoor learning, children will be expected to behave safely while in the woodland to ensure the safety of themselves and their friends.



Snacks & Lunch

Snack is cooked over the fire and could include pasta, garlic bread with foraged wild garlic, banana pancakes and, of course, s'mores!

The children sit down for lunch at 11.30am. If your child is booked for lunch then they will need to bring a packed lunch with a cool pack included.

Please note: We are strictly a 'NO NUTS' setting. Please check any ingredients before packing them in your child's lunchbox.

Anything that states 'may contain nuts' will have to be removed.

How to Register

We recommend placing your child's name on our waiting list as soon as possible to secure your place.

A place is considered secure once the following is in place

- Admin fees have been received
- Admission form has been completed and returned
- Funding applications discussed (if eligible) and parents declaration completed
- First month's fees are paid in advance
- Birth certificate has been provided
- Terms and Conditions form has been signed and returned
- Medical form completed and returned if necessary for particular medical needs
- Tapestry consent form signed and returned (our online platform for recording children's learning journals)
- Marketing agreement completed. Please use QR code below or follow this link <https://bit.ly/YO-consent>



Payment can be made online. Please talk to a member of the team for details.

Alternatively we can take a payment over the phone by calling 01264 332188.

Please use your child's name as a reference and state that it is for admin fees.

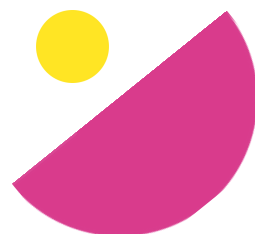
Once this is all in place, we can arrange a couple of hour long settling in sessions for your child to familiarise themselves with the setting and staff.

What To Bring

- A bag containing spare clothes, including underwear and socks
- Nappies and wipes if your child is not yet toilet trained
- Please apply suncream to your child before they arrive if sunny. We will re-apply at lunchtime. If your child needs to use a specific sun cream, please provide this, labelled with their name
- Suitable clothing for cold and wet outside exploration
- Wellies, gloves and warm hats in the winter
- No open sandals or flip-flops please
- Please cover shoulders on particularly hot days

Your child's bag will need to come home with you at the end of the day, please help our staff by clearly labelling your child's items.

If you need support to purchase some of these items, please speak to our Manager or Deputy Manager and we may be able to support you with this.





Little Owls

Youth Options believes that all children and young people can achieve a better future, whatever their life circumstances. We support children and young people, particularly those who need it most, to engage, develop and become empowered to achieve a better future.

Each year we work with thousands of children and young people to achieve that mission.

Our highly skilled team of preschool practitioners, playworkers and youth support workers inspire children and young people to realise their potential.

A Better Future

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