

Little Forest aims to provide a happy and homely environment for our children and our staff. We have designed the setting to be open plan and neutral, creating calm surroundings that enables children to feel relaxed and focussed. Our stimulating resources are carefully chosen to help them develop and gain confidence and skills, linked to all areas of the EYFS Curriculum.

The children can lead their own play during 'free flow times.' We encourage the children to explore the open plan environment to discover and choose what they would like to do. The staff are there to support, comfort, interact and observe. This is a wonderful time for them to build on their social interactions, self-confidence and independence.

We also provide group times, which is where the children go into small groups with their keyworker and enjoy activities that have been carefully planned for their age range and abilities. Our small ratios mean that our staff develop strong bonds with the children. This helps them to feel confident, safe and settled. Smaller ratios also alleviates pressure on the staff, meaning that our team feel supported, enforcing a high wellbeing within the team.

We work closely with parents to ensure that we are providing the best environment for the children and their individual needs. We encourage open communication so we can have a good insight into every child's life, enabling us to do everything we can to support, teach and comfort them.

We like to maximise the amount of time we spend outside because we feel that children can gain so much knowledge and experience from being in the great outdoors. Our exciting outdoor space is an enclosed 800sq ft area where the children can play freely and safely, taking in all that our beautiful surroundings have to offer.

The garden is situated just across the path from the nursery. We have split the garden into sections. These include;

*The Sandpit
The Allotment
Grass Area
The Cabin
The Forest Area
The Mud Kitchen
The Woodchip Area*

Each of these areas provide different learning opportunities, as well as an opportunity to embrace and enjoy nature and physical activity.

The children enjoy tending to our allotment; they help plant the seeds, water the soil and take care of the plants. We then use the fruit and vegetables at snack times so the children get to enjoy the whole cycle.

Following on from this, we respect our world and want to encourage our children to grow up with the same ethos. We recycle, reduce and reuse and always encourage the children to be involved with this, as well as explaining the reasons and importance behind it.

Little Forest aims to be a happy, supportive and positive place for our staff as we feel happy staff set the foundation for happy children. We ensure that we are role-modelling friendly interactions between each other as we know this will filter down to similar interactions between the children.

Our aim is to provide a safe, happy, educational and fun place for children to flourish, learn and build positive relationships. Ultimately, we want our children to leave Little Forest feeling confident, secure and prepared for their next steps.