

## School Readiness

Finally, as our children prepare to move up to 'big school', many parents are interested in the concept of 'school readiness'; ensuring that their children are prepared for the new challenges and opportunities provided once they move up to school. At **Little Delwood Kindergarten**, we encourage school readiness by working towards and promoting the following 'I Can...' skills:

### I Can...

- Use the toilet independently
- Dress myself
- Understand what behaviour is expected of me
- Take turns and share
- Sit still and quietly while listening, for a short period of time
- Separate from my parents/carers
- Communicate and use language skills
- Express my own needs, wants and preferences



These skills are what teachers are most keen to see that children are capable of. We promote these 'I Can...' skills through the use of our Golden Rules, positive role modelling, encouraging independence and self-reflection, as well as resilience and the desire to 'have a go'. By helping children to resolve their own problems and conflicts as they arise, we can ensure they have the best possible start at future learning!



# Information Booklet



### **Creativity & Messy Play**

We supply the aprons, you supply the artists! But we all know that some artists can't be stopped mid-flow to put an apron on, and for some children the thought of wearing an apron is a deterrence that stop them from ever painting at all, rather than wear one. For this reason, we do not force children to wear aprons; only encourage them, particularly the younger and more 'expressive' artists! Always ensure that your children wear appropriate clothing to Kindergarten; nothing that would be too devastating if it got messy, please!

### **The EYFS, Key Person & Tapestry**

Shortly after joining the Kindergarten, your child will be assigned a Team Member to be their 'Key Person', who will be your first port of call if you have any questions or concerns about your child's development and progress. This Key Person will spend time recording observations of your child's journey with us, and their own development through the Early Years Foundation Stage. This information is then shared with you, generally in the form of Tapestry; our Online Learning Journal software which allows us to safely, securely, and speedily share information and news with you. Your child will have a Baseline Assessment written for them during their first month or so, and termly Summative Assessments will follow, to keep you up to date!

## **Sessions & Fees**

At Little Delwood Kindergarten, we open at 8:00 AM and close at 4:00 PM, we are open five days a week and term-time only. We accept government funding, and offer a variety of flexible session options within a day, including morning sessions, afternoons, full days and shorter 'school days'. Please ask a member of the Kindergarten team for more information!

Full Day	8 AM to 4 PM	£39.60
School Day	9 AM to 3 PM	£32.95
Morning	8 AM to 1 PM	£24.75
Afternoon	1 PM to 4 PM	£14.85

**Please note that a small consumables charge (70p per hour) may apply for children using grant funding.**

We try to be as helpful and flexible with sessions as possible, and also offer Extra Sessions (subject to availability of the space we have), for those one-off occasions where you need extra of childcare at short notice. These are charged at the same rate as their corresponding sessions (although funding cannot be used), simply let us know if you need one!



## Extra Information

### Food & Drink

Children bring in their own packed lunch and drinks bottles from home every day, and we eat lunch together from 12:00 to 12:45. In addition, we provide a small and healthy snack twice a day at 10:15 AM and 2:15 PM, consisting of a choice of milk or water to drink, with various fruits and 'carbohydrate snacks', such as toast, bread sticks, crackers etc.

### Daily Flow

Free flow between the main room and the garden area is available throughout most of the day, and a day will also include opportunities for quiet time and sleep, for younger children that still do so during the day. Children are given the time and space throughout the day to find and peruse activities of their own choosing and interest, while still learning to work and play as part of a group when joining in with the structured activities.

### Appropriate Clothing

Appropriate clothing is essential to give children the freedom of movement and confidence to embrace the world around them, without worrying about tearing or dirtying their brand new clothes! Sensible footwear is crucial, as we take walks often and there is plenty of movement during play. Velcro strap shoes are ideal, so that children can learn to put their own shoes on and develop their self-help skills. For our frequent woodland walks, welly boots are ideal. Even if it isn't muddy out, boots let children walk through streams and splash through the rivers. Each day you must bring **at least one full change of clothes** for your child, including pants and socks. Even a fully toilet-trained child may still get wet or mucky through play, and everyone has the occasional accident!

## Our Day

A typical Delwood day includes a variety of opportunities for play and exploration, provided by our continuous provision. These might include (but are not limited to):

- Play-dough
- Sand, soil & water trays
- Creative art area & painting easel
- Board games & jigsaw puzzles
- Dolls house
- Role-play area with dress up clothes
- Book corner
- Block area
- Outdoor mud kitchen
- Ride-on vehicle toys

There will also usually be one or more other structured group activities throughout the day, such as:

- Woodland walks
- Walks around the estate
- Baking tasty treats
- Parachute games outside
- Cooking food together
- Team games
- Music, dance and singing



## Our OWL Values

- **Respect** – Linking with our Golden Rules and the British Values, we encourage kindness and safe, responsible play, both towards other people and the environment. We treat our children as young, independent thinkers, and strive for children to both consider and understand the consequences of their actions, both positive and otherwise.
- **Community** – We enjoy being a part of our local community, supporting and being supported by local suppliers and businesses, as we strive to make the most of the areas and resources surrounding us. We take frequent trips to the nearby woods and around the estate, which encourages the children to undertake new challenges, develop their physical skills and learn more about the world they live in, all while enjoying ‘freedom with guidance’.
- **Connectedness** – We present learning as a meaningful whole, linking, where possible, to children’s own experiences and interests. Experiences provided by Little Delwood Kindergarten will help children to learn and develop real skills that lay the foundation for life, such as cooking, baking, washing up, tidying, planting and creating, to name just a few!



## A Froebelian Kindergarten

‘Kindergarten’ comes from the German for ‘child garden’- a garden or nursery where young children could grow and develop at their own pace, nurtured by knowledgeable and supportive adults. The term was first coined by **Friedrich Froebel**, who created the first ever Kindergarten, and the ‘*Froebelian Approach*’. Rather than following a set of strict rules, a Froebelian approach is more of a mind-set, based on a set of values and principles.

### **Froebelian Principles**

- Respect
- Community & Connectedness
- Play, Talk & First-hand experiences
- Creativity
- Freedom with guidance
- Outdoor play
- Positive & Supportive relationships
- Well informed & qualified education practitioners

We closely follow these principles at Little Delwood, and as such they are reflected in ‘*Our World of Learning*’; our ‘**O.W.L. Values**’.

