



**Blue Pear**

Day Nursery & Pre-School

## Information Pack

[www.bluepeardaynursery.com](http://www.bluepeardaynursery.com)

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**Opening Hours:** Monday – Friday 8am-6pm



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Thank you for your interest in Blue Pear Day Nursery and Pre-School. The following information is an introduction to us and the day-to-day running of our nursery. If you would like to view our nursery once you have read our information pack please call or e-mail us and we would be happy to arrange a visit.

### **About Us**

We are a family-run day nursery providing excellent childcare for children aged 3 months - 5 years. Our nursery managers have a range of skills, qualifications and experience in providing the best childcare and learning opportunities for your child. At our nursery we give children the opportunity to discover their own interests and explore their abilities through structured free play and by offering a range of activity choices. We recognise that every child is unique and has their own voice; we encourage them to use their words and express their interests, which helps us to plan our activities and curriculum. Blue Pear Day Nursery works within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and focuses on developing the prime and specific areas of each child's learning before the start of school. We pride ourselves on valuing individuality and difference in each child, which is supported throughout each child's stages of development.

### **Vision Statement**

- ❖ To provide exceptional childcare and education for children aged 3 months -5 years
- ❖ To provide a safe, happy and caring environment where individuality and learning through play is promoted
- ❖ To work in partnership and form positive relationships with all parents/carers as well as outside agencies and other professional's
- ❖ To enable children to form positive relationships with staff built on trust and confidence

### **Our Staff**

Qualified and trained staff members help us to deliver our service and meet regulatory requirements. We work within the recommended adult-child ratios and have permanent staff your child can build relationships with. We have a robust recruitment system in place to ensure we have the right people to look after your child. Most of our staff hold recognised childcare qualifications, whilst the rest are in the process of gaining childcare qualifications (apprentices). Our staff members hold up-to-date certificates in pediatric first aid, safeguarding and child protection, the prevent duty, health and safety and food hygiene awareness. All members of staff also undergo enhanced DBS checks annually to ensure they are suitable to work with children.

## Our Setting

A secure main front gate controls access to our setting, and also additional secure pre-school/babies entrance and toddlers entrance. We have three separate children's rooms; babies (3months-2 years), Toddlers (2-3 years), and Pre-School (3-5 years).

Our pre-school room is run from a large free-flow hall where all children have the space to actively explore construction, role-play, reading, quiet area, and focus activity areas with ease. We plan our pre-school creative and fun activities around all areas of the EYFS. This includes the specific areas of learning, which are literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and expressive arts and design. Children will gain confidence in these specific areas in preparation for school. Our pre-school activities and planning takes into account the development levels and stages of individual children, as well as children's interests picked up on from observations and assessments.

For our toddlers we plan lots of creative, sensory, messy play, and role-play activities. Toddlers are encouraged to use their ideas and imagination when taking part in activities. Toddlers are also taught social skills such as sharing, taking turns, making friends and being kind. We also encourage toddlers to be independent, for example, wiping their own noses, getting dressed, and potty training.

Babies are encouraged to use their senses to play, create, investigate and explore. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interaction. Developing skills such as these prepares our younger children for the transition to toddler's room.

We follow the EYFS framework, which allows all children to build on the skills they already have whilst also giving them the opportunity to learn new ones. Our structured nursery environment involves planned and free choice activities helping children toward meeting the seven key areas of learning. When planning to meet these areas, our staff will assess individual needs, abilities and interests. For all children we operate a daily report system, staff write down a daily report on your child's day based on activities they've taken part in and a few highlights of their day. Feedback from you about your child's time at home is both welcome and helpful. We also hold parent-teacher evenings twice a year to discuss your child's progress.

We operate a key worker system where one staff member is responsible for observing and keeping records of your child's daily activities, new skills, strengths, areas for improvement, and assessments. This is done on the electronic observation system **Tapestry**, as well as in individual learning Journeys. This enables your child to

develop a strong bond with their key worker, which helps them to form positive relationships at nursery.

### Outside Play and Activities

#### Penge Recreation Grounds, Betts Park, The Library, Winsford Gardens

On a daily basis we take children to play outside (weather permitting). We play mostly at Penge recreation grounds (only a two minute walk) to encourage fitness, exercise and general physical development. We also attend Betts Swing Park or Winsford Gardens occasionally to allow children to have variety and choice in their outdoor play environment. We believe that the change in environment and fresh air helps to keep children focused and allows them to thrive in their inside learning environment. When we play outdoors we take with us play equipment such as balls and scooters, or other materials such as books, chalk, flash cards or sensory tubes – this varies on a day-to-day basis and according to our weekly outside plan (which covers all seven areas of learning). Children wear high visibility jackets and walk over in pairs to each location. All toddlers and babies will use reins or a buggy. We have robust policies, procedures, and risk assessments in place for staff taking children to play outside. (Below shows the location of Penge recreation grounds)



### Children's Learning and Development

We are guided by the Early Years Foundations Stage (EYFS 2017) in all areas of children's learning and development. The EYFS sets the standard that all childcare providers must adhere to. It ensures that all children learn and develop effectively and consistently, and are kept healthy and safe at all times.

The **four** overarching principles of the EYFS are:

- ❖ Every child is a **unique** child who is constantly learning
- ❖ Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
- ❖ Children learn and develop in **enabling environments**
- ❖ Children **learn and develop in different ways** and at different rates

There are **seven** areas of learning identified in the EYFS and which shape our educational programme:

### **Three Prime Areas**

- ❖ Communication and language
- ❖ Physical Development
- ❖ Personal Social and Emotional Development

### **Four Specific Areas**

- ❖ Literacy
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Understanding the World
- ❖ Expressive Arts and Design

For babies and toddlers, we focus mainly on the prime areas of learning, as these form the basis of successful learning in the four specific areas. The three prime areas support babies and toddlers in developing secure attachments and a sense of belonging, identifying their feelings, becoming independent, curious and ready to explore.

For our pre-school children the balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning, as they grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. We aim for our pre-school children to become confident in all specific areas of learning before the start of school, as this will help them significantly when moving on to Reception class and Key Stage 1 (School Years 1 and 2).

### Assessment

We assess how well all children are learning and developing by recording observations on a daily basis. These observations are built up over time and used in children's formal assessments. Every term we assess your child's learning and development in all relevant areas and share this with you. This helps us to work together to pick up on your child's strengths, and any areas for us to focus on.

### Progress Check at Age 2 (formal assessment)

We provide parents with a written summary of their child's development in the three prime areas of learning at age 2. We encourage all parents to inform us when their child is due for their 2-year health check with their health visitor, as we encourage you to take your child's report with you.

### **Tapestry – Online Learning Journal**

Tapestry is a confidential and secure online journal recording all the learning and development, special moments and fun activities of children's early years education. We use the Tapestry app to record all observations, next steps and tracking details including photographs and videos of children participating in activities. The observations and data we collect on Tapestry is shared with parents/carers and available to view via the app. With the Tapestry app you can keep up to date with your child's development, give feedback and be involved in their learning process. All the information we collect on Tapestry is used to inform

children's formal assessments, next steps and our curriculum planning.

### **Meals and Snacks**

Our menus are carefully planned for each season and a balanced diet and healthy options are encouraged. Meals and snacks are freshly prepared on site by our cook who holds certificates in catering, food hygiene, and nutrition awareness for children. Water is offered throughout the day including meal times and milk at morning snack time. We aim for our menus to offer a variety of different tastes and textures from many different cultures and backgrounds. Our menus are displayed for all parents to see and input into our menus is welcome.

We educate children about food to encourage them to make healthy food choices for themselves. We also aim for our mealtimes to be fun and an opportunity to learn. At meal times we help children to grasp key skills and etiquette such as, setting the table, using knives and forks to feed themselves, sharing conversation and clearing away afterwards. We cater for children with special dietary needs based on allergy/medical conditions, religious, or cultural requirements.

Meals and snacks are served at the following times:

- ❖ Breakfast: 8.00 – 8.45am
- ❖ Snack: 10.15 – 10.30am
- ❖ Lunch: 11.45 – 12.30pm
- ❖ Tea: 3.15 – 3.45pm

### **Drop-off and Pick-up**

At drop-off and pick-up time, we will sign your child in and out of the nursery. This is important with regards to fire safety and knowing exactly who is on the premises at certain times of the day. If you wish to discuss your child with staff you can do so in the mornings at drop-off time or at pick-up time provided you arrive earlier than the collection time.

**We ask for all parents/carers to close any doors or gates securely behind them.**

**No parent/carer should let anyone inside the premises when entering or leaving, even if you recognise someone as another parent. Everyone must ring the bell on entry.**

### **What your child needs for nursery:**

We ask for parents/carers to bring in the following:

- ❖ A change of clothes including socks, pants/knickers and shoes (for toilet accidents). Please provide this in a zip-up bag (avoid drawstring and plastic bags). Your child's bag will be kept on the coat pegs in the foyer area
- ❖ Nappies, pull up's, wipes, and any creams your child may use. Please provide enough for throughout the day/week.
- ❖ Sealed formula milk container and sterilized bottles (babies)
- ❖ A water bottle with flip/easy open lid which can be left at nursery (toddlers)

and pre-school)

- ❖ If your child will sleep during the day at nursery, they may want their favorite soft toy/comforter to sleep with
- ❖ If you will use a buggy to bring your child to nursery, and wish to leave the buggy with us, this is at owners risk. Please leave buggies on the stage area in the main hall, and try to fold buggies as space can be limited
- ❖ **If your child requires an EpiPen auto-injector it is parents/carers responsibly to provide the nursery with two**

If your child requires additional items of clothes or nappies, we will let you know at pick up time, or note this down in your child's day diary (under 2's).

### **Potty Training and Nappies/Pull Up's for Toddlers**

If your child is in the process of potty training we are more than happy to assist in the process and encourage your child to use the potty/toilet. If your child is using pull up's or nappies throughout the day or at certain times such as sleep times, we will gradually encourage them to use pants/knickers (or training pants) and to use the potty at their own pace (with parental consent).

### **Sickness and Medication**

Bringing a sick child into the nursery environment can put other children and staff at risk. If your child is sick the best place for them is at home. If your child gets sick whilst in our care we will contact you promptly and you will be expected to collect your child from us. A medication form will need to be filled in if you wish for us to administer **any** medication to your child. All medicines must have a label with your child's name on it. Please note we cannot administer any medication that has not been provided by the parent, including Calpol - we need consent to administer any prescribed or non-prescribed medication including Calpol.

### **Complaints**

If you have any complaints about the nursery that cannot be resolved by us you will need to contact Ofsted. Full contact details for Ofsted can be found online at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

### **Holidays and Opening Times**

The nursery is open for 51 weeks in a year and will close for one week around Christmas and also for Bank Holidays. We may close for one or two extra days in a year to accommodate staff training needs or exceptional circumstances. You will be notified of nursery closure days in advance.

### **Free Nursery Education Funding - 15&30 Hours**

All three and four year olds and some two years olds are entitled to 15 hours free Nursery Education Funding per week. Two-year-old funding requires specific criteria to be met, please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to find out if you are eligible. Please ask a manager if you are interested in 15 hours of free childcare. **If we cannot offer space immediately you will be added to the funding waiting list.**

We also offer 30 hours free childcare per week for eligible parents/carers of 3&4 year olds - subject to availability at the nursery. Please contact us regarding reserving a 30 hours funded place for your child.



You will need to apply for a 30 hours funded place through [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) and get your 11-digit access code.

This code will need to be presented to the nursery in order to gain 30 hours.

We charge a supplement fee per week, for those taking **funded only places**, to cover the cost of food and additional activities and resources.

### Parents and Carers

We regard parents/carers as members of our nursery who have full participatory rights. These include the right to be:

- ❖ Valued and respected
- ❖ Kept informed
- ❖ Involved; and
- ❖ Included at all levels

### Safeguarding and Policies and Procedures

We have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to ensure the safeguarding of all children. Copies of all policies and procedures are available at the nursery or available to download from our website. We encourage all parents/carers to read through these before your child attends our setting. Managers and practitioners are legally obliged to report all safeguarding concerns to the Local Authority. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Nursery Managers.

### Fees Table (From June 2022)

Age	Full Day Rate (8am-6pm)
Under 2's	£71
2-3 years	£65
Over 3's	£63

- ❖ Our fees are reviewed annually, parents are notified of this in advance
- ❖ A non-refundable registration fee of £30 is payable to register your child or to place them on our waiting list
- ❖ Fees must be paid in advance on the first working day of each month. Late payment will incur a £25 charge and a £10 daily charge after this
- ❖ Our fees are calculated using the half day and full day rates only
- ❖ We offer a 10% sibling discount on fees for the eldest child (children in the same room are excluded from this discount unfortunately)
- ❖ Fees are payable even if your child is not attending nursery due to sickness or holidays
- ❖ If your child starts mid-month fees will be charged for the remaining days of that month to bring your child's fees in line with the first day of the month
- ❖ A minimum of 2 days per week must be booked
- ❖ Those accessing funding will be charged an hourly rate for any hours above

the 15- or 30-hours free entitlement

- ❖ **A deposit is required to guarantee your child's place at nursery**
- ❖ **The deposit will be reimbursed at the end of your child's time with the nursery, provided your child has attended for a minimum period of six months, and we are given one month's written notice of the child's leaving date**
- ❖ **The deposit paid to secure a place for your child will not be refunded if you decide not to take the space**