

Cygnet Nursery



Prospectus



Cygnet Nursery

Cygnet Nursery is registered as a day nursery by OfSTED. Cygnet Nursery (Kidlington) Ltd is the entity registered to provide the care under the Children Act. We open from 7.30 am to 6.00 pm throughout the year, closing only on bank holidays and for approximately one week at Christmas.

Children generally arrive at the Nursery between 7.30 am and 9.00 am, start or finish between 12.00 pm and 2.00 pm, subject to availability, and finish anytime between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm. We are, however, very flexible and will try to meet any individual requirements. We offer pre-school education of the highest standard with a range of opportunities to learn through play as well as some more formal instruction.

Aims

The aim of the Nursery is to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which children may learn and grow in confidence and self-esteem whilst providing a friendly, flexible childcare service for parents.

Premises

The Nursery stands in its own grounds off Langford Lane, Kidlington, near Oxford Airport and The Spires Business Park. Langford Lane runs between the A4260 and the A44, to the north of Kidlington. It offers extensive indoor and outdoor play areas. There are four separate rooms catering for different age groups in two buildings on one large site.

Staffing

The ratio of staff to pupils is at least 1:3 for 0-2’s, 1:4 for 2-3’s and 1:8 for 3-5’s.

Most of the staff are qualified Early Years Educators at Level 3 or above; others are working towards this qualification. Part-time and temporary staff may be employed from time to time to cover absences.

All of the staff are responsible for meeting the physical and emotional needs of the children. They all take responsibility for delivery of the curriculum which is the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum.

Cygnet Nursery follow these overarching principles of the Statutory Framework to shape the practice in our setting:

* Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
* Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
* Children learn to develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
* **Children develop and learn in different ways** (characteristics of effective learning are observed), **and at different rates**

The three Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

* **Playing and exploring**
* **Active Learning**
* **Creating and thinking critically**

The Foundation Stage is based around seven areas of learning:

* **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**
* **Understanding of the World**
* **Mathematics**
* **Communication & Language**
* **Literacy**
* **Physical Development**
* **Expressive Arts & Design**

A key-person scheme is in operation for the children and this is supplemented by a buddy system to ensure continuity of care for the children if their key person is away.

Equal Opportunities

The Nursery is fully committed to a policy of equality of opportunities and we treat the children in our care with equal concern to meet their specific needs with regard to their religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background, sex and any disability.

Entry

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis but priority is given to existing pupils and their siblings. Early application is advised if you require specific part-time sessions. If you are able to offer any flexibility as to which sessions you are able to accept, please indicate this on the application form. Children may attend on a full or part-time basis, subject to a minimum of two sessions over not less than two days per week.

Activities

The children are guided through a balanced curriculum encouraging social, emotional, physical and intellectual development in line with the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum.

The children spend some time working in small groups with individual members of staff during the mornings and afternoons. There are also many opportunities for free play, when children may choose from a range of activities on offer.

Except in very wet weather, there will be an opportunity for the children to play outdoors during each session.

Parents

We never forget that parents are the first educators of their children.

Parental involvement in all aspects of the Nursery is encouraged and parents should feel free to discuss any problems with the staff or visit the Nursery at any time during opening hours.

Parents of older children will be encouraged to assist and support children with their reading and other work.

We may also ask parents to contribute to the work of the Nursery by contributing to topic work any specific skills or properties that they may have to assist the children in achieving a greater knowledge and understanding of the world. This may be particularly relevant in expanding their appreciation of other cultures as well as people and places that have significance in their own lives.

*More detailed policies are available for inspection on request.*

Special Educational Needs

Where a child has a recognised special educational need, we are happy to consider applications providing that, in discussion with the parents, and any other agencies already involved with the child, it is agreed that we are able to offer a programme that will meet the particular needs of the child.

Where it is felt that a child already attending the Nursery may have a previously unstated special need, the nursery staff will determine, in collaboration with the parents, what action is necessary to meet those needs including, where appropriate, the involvement of other agencies.

Discipline

Children are encouraged to adopt acceptable standards of behaviour. There is a strong emphasis on developing social behaviour within a group and basic good manners.

Sanctions may be applied in cases of unacceptable behaviour that take into account the age and stage of development of the child concerned.

Corporal punishment will not be used under any circumstances. Physical action may be taken in emergencies only to prevent injury or serious damage to property.

Meals

A light, healthy snack is provided in the middle of each session. Balanced, two course lunches are provided on request. Children staying over the lunch period must be provided with a packed lunch if Nursery lunches are not requested. Please indicate your requirements on the application form.

The Nursery has been given the highest 5 star rating under the Food Standards Agency hygiene rating scheme.

Clothing

* Children should be dressed in comfortable, washable clothing, suitable for play.
* All clothing should be clearly labelled.
* Protective aprons are provided for painting, water play etc.
* For the very youngest children, play suits of the type that do not cover the feet are recommended.

Early Years Grant funding for 2, 3 & 4 year-olds

The Nursery is registered to receive funding for eligible two, three & four year-olds.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/help-paying-childcare>

Cygnet Nursery OfSTED Inspection – 29th June 2016

The Nursery was inspected by a registered Nursery Inspector under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006. The full text of this report is available from the OfSTED website (search for URN: EY541904 on Ofsted.gov.uk) or in hard copy from the Nursery on request.

The inspector concluded:

The provision is **good** in the four areas of:

* Effectiveness of leadership and management
* Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
* Personal development, behaviour and welfare
* Outcomes for children

*If children live with tolerance,*

*they learn to be patient.*

*If children live with encouragement,*

*they learn to be confident.*

*If children live with praise,*

*they learn to appreciate.*

*If children live with fairness,*

*they learn justice.*

*If children live with security,*

*they learn to have faith.*

*If children live with approval,*

*they learn to like themselves*

From “Children Learn What They Live”

Author unknown.

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