



Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery Ltd.

PRESCHOOL UNIT

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Thank you for coming to view the Preschool Unit at Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery Ltd. We hope you enjoyed your visit and that you found your time here to be both informative and helpful. Here at Jolly Rodgers, we understand that choosing the best nursery for you and your child is a huge decision and that it can be difficult to take in all of the information given to you during your visit. For this reason, we decided to put together this booklet outlining everything you will have discussed during your viewing in a little more detail, allowing you to learn all about our nursery in your own time and to hopefully help you make the best decision for your family.

Should you have any questions or wish to pop in for a second viewing, please feel free to call us at any time and we shall be only too happy to help.

Preschool staff

Nicola McDonnell (Manageress)

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Inside the Preschool Unit

Preschool Unit ranges with children age between 3 yrs to 4 yrs old.

The staff to child ratio for Preschool is 1:8; staff hold relevant childcare qualifications, current first aid and child protection certificates. The nursery believes in enhancing staff development and continues to invest in additional specialist training courses e.g. behavioural management, basic food & hygiene, health and safety on a regular basis. In addition a student/trainee may also be assigned to the unit. Early Years Specialist support service is used throughout the nursery on a regular basis.

We fully understand what an important transition starting Nursery is for both you and your child and this is why we strive so hard to make the whole experience as happy and rewarding as possible for your child and as reassuring as possible for you.

Preschool unit has a maximum of 24 children with a ratio of 1:8; we would have 3 staff members within the room. We have a spacious purpose built room; children in preschool follow the national preschool curriculum, learning through play. We encourage 4 children at each activity or area i.e. sand, water, floor play, table top activities etc. We also have free play - times where the children can freely move around the room to whichever area they would like to play. We also offer a wide range of messy play, a few examples - shaving foam, soap flakes, whip, jelly, and pasta - the messier the better. Independence is encouraged during snack times and lunchtime, with staff on hand to assist if required. Independence is respected during toilet breaks, however, staff will support individual toileting needs. We have daily use of sensory room & role play room within the nursery. All units within the nursery both indoors and outdoors are monitored by CCTV cameras and external doors are key coded. All units have use of company vehicles for outings.

Within Preschool we work to a Daily routine which is displayed on the door within Preschool for everyone to see and for staff to follow. We also follow weekly plans which again are displayed within Preschool. These plans relate to our theme for the month and if we have any special or extra activities planned, weather permitting planned activities will also take place outside.

We work hard to create a 'home from home' environment for the children in our care and strive to make the transition from home to nursery as stress free as possible for you and your child by following a routine that they enjoy and are comfortable with.

Media Initiative for children respecting difference programme.

We recently received training in the media initiative programme for 3 year olds and have introduced the persona dolls to Preschool with great success.

Implementing the MIFC with younger children 3-4years

The focus for this age group of children must be on supporting emotional and social development through using the core resources of the MIFC particularly the persona dolls. The emphasis should be on supporting young children to understand and express their feelings. As young children are whole body learners, they should be supported to explore feelings and emotions in this way. The physical environment must allow for this. Preschool Children should be able to express themselves physically and move freely indoors and outdoors. They should have space and opportunity to roll, jump, spin and dance whenever the mood takes them. Even before language, there is a vocabulary of gesture and vocalization, and a skill of reading facial expression, gestures, and body language of other people, of falling into their rhythms, that very young children develop. It is vital therefore that adult child interactions and the emotional learning environment are attuned to children's age and stage of development.

While it is positive that young children are exposed to diversity in the range of images in their environment, more complex work around looking at race, ethnicity and disability is better deferred to within the pre-school curriculum year.

A detailed Risk Assessment is carried out for the room and gardens on a daily basis to ensure that only the highest levels of safety and hygiene are achieved.

All staff members work closely with all of the children in our care. However, we do operate a Keyworker System within Jolly Rodgers. On starting in Preschool, your child will be assigned their own keyworker who will be responsible for carrying out observations and compiling progress reports which help us to follow and record your child's development within nursery.

Observations are carried out on a monthly basis and used to compile a brief Progress Report which will be sent home to you termly. An example is included in this pack and contains a brief description of each area of learning. In the meantime however, you are welcome to speak to staff any time at all about your child's development and we are always happy to answer any questions or help with any concerns you may have. We also welcome outside professional bodies e.g. speech therapists to visit your child on site with prior consent from yourself.

We also hold annual Parents' Evenings and charity coffee mornings during the year which you are invited to come along and join us and see all that is new within the unit and have the opportunity to spend a little quality time with staff discussing your child's progress. We understand however, that parents are extremely busy so these evenings are not compulsory and should you wish to arrange a meeting with staff at a time that best suits you, you only have to ask.

We operate an Open Door policy at Jolly Rodgers and parents are welcome to drop in or call/email at any time and discuss your child.

The preschool unit base their learning through play around the National curriculum and the 6 areas of learning, including The Arts, The World around us. Early Mathematical experiences, Language Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical development. Monthly themes /weekly plans and daily activities incorporate each of these areas but also allow for spontaneous planning which is child lead to take place and be observed.

Monthly themes

Each month has a theme that is carried throughout the nursery with activities tailored to suit each age group. Examples of previous monthly themes are as follows:

January

Shops, Recycling, Opposites

February

Chinese New Year and festivals around the world, Pancake Tuesday & Valentine's Day

March

Spring, Mother's Day & St. Patrick Day, Ireland and countries around the world

Easter celebrations, (if it falls this month)



April

Life Cycles, Farm animals, pets

Easter celebrations, (if it falls this month)

May

Space & Modes of Transport



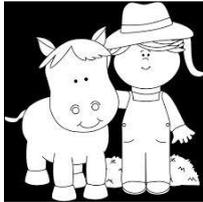
June

Holidays & the Beach

Father's Day

July

On the Farm, At the Zoo, Animals and their babies



August

Nursery Rhymes

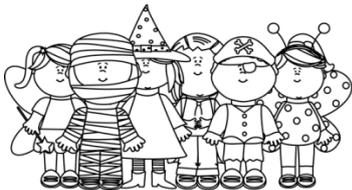
Pirates & Princesses

September

All about Me & My Family

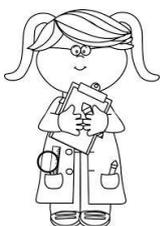
October

Autumn, Hibernation, Halloween



November

People Who Help Us & Road Safety,



Guy Fawkes

December

Winter, Weather, Christmas Traditions



Songs, stories, arts & crafts etc. are planned around each month's themes. A more detailed plan for each month is displayed within each room and you may view this any time you are in nursery. Activities are then broken down further on a week by week plan and this is also displayed within each room. Each month, we choose a different colour to learn and play dough, water etc. are coloured accordingly.

Learning through Play

Children learn through play and it is our aim to make the whole learning experience as fun and enjoyable as possible. Examples of the types of play we enjoy in Preschool are as follows:

Physical Play

Designed to encourage children's fine and gross motor skills

- Throwing, catching, jumping, running, climbing, games, table top activities, outside play

Sensory Development/Messy Play

Encourages children to explore their senses through touch, smell, textures etc.

- Jelly, custard, play dough, sand, water, pasta etc.
- Baking activities

- Heuristic play - learning about natural materials through sight, touch etc.

Early Maths

Activities designed to encourage Early Maths abilities such as counting, measurements, weights, size etc.

- Shape sorters, building blocks, sand/water (full/empty, light/heavy) etc. counting, games & songs

Language & Communication

Uses various methods to encourage language & communication development

- Songs, stories, chat while playing, circle time etc.

Messy play such as play dough is made within the nursery so all ingredients are safe if the children put it in their mouths. Food colouring is used to colour the water.



Outdoor Play

During the good weather, we encourage the children to be outdoors as much as possible for fresh air and exercise. Our gardens are safe, secure and age appropriate and are also used on a timetable basis. Sun cream is applied to each child and a gazebo is erected on sunny days so shade is provided if required. We also 'bring the indoors outdoors' with sand trays, a paddling pool and boxes of toys being placed in the garden for the children to enjoy.

Snack & Meal Times

Breakfast is served from 7.30am - 8.30am with a range of breakfast cereal to choose from. Morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are also served within the kitchen. Lunch is freshly prepared each day by our cook. Fresh fruit is available throughout the day but we would have a fruit snack at 2.00pm each day.

A sample menu has been included with this booklet so you can see the type of meals and snacks we provide. A copy of the menu for each week is displayed on Preschool notice board each week.

Should your child have any special dietary requirements, we will provide an alternative menu tailored specifically to match their individual needs. A record of each food a child cannot be given is placed within the unit and the kitchen to ensure all staff are made aware.

Quiet Time

We have 2/3 'quiet times' each day. This is a time for children to calm down in between play times. During quiet time, we read stories to the children which can be a mix of theme related stories and old favourite stories. We also sing songs and encourage the children to sing their favourite song for the other children. We also have colour and number games to promote mathematical development and colour awareness.

At the end of each day, staff will take a few minutes to inform you of how your child has eaten and how their general well-being was during the day and what they did that day and what activities they particularly enjoyed.

Additional Activities

As well as spending time in the garden, we also like to take the children out for walks using our caterpillar for safety. We regularly walk to Wallace Park and to Duncan's Dam to feed the ducks. Additional days out are organised relating to monthly themes.



Other activities include:

Library

Jo Jingles (weekly during term-time)

Visits from Debutots

Visits from Blackberry Farm

Looking after eggs until they hatch into chickens

Visits from the Firemen & Fire Engine

Visit from local dentist

Visits from 'Mantella' - Zoo to you

Visits from Zoolab

Themed parties & fundraisers e.g. 'Rainbow Day' - make a wish charity

Children in need - PJ Day

Christmas Jumper Day

Slipper Day

Summer trip to Tannaghmore Gardens Farm/zoo

Pirates & Princesses Garden Party in Wallace Park

Easter egg hunt

Halloween party

Christmas party including a visit from Santa and a gift for each child.

A monthly newsletter is available on our webpage www.jollyrodgers.co.uk and also displayed within our preschool unit. Additional paper copies can be supplied if required.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this booklet. We hope you have found it useful and informative and that it will help make your decision a little easier.

Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any further questions at all.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Jolly Rodgers Preschool Staff

Please turn over for your sample Progress Report, menu and Daily Routine.

Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery Termly Child Review

Name Unit.....

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

How your child is settling in, how independent they are becoming, their relationships with staff and other children, what they enjoy doing

Language & Communication Development

How their speech is developing, how they listen during stories, which songs they enjoy, any new words

Physical Development

If they start crawling, walking etc. fine & gross motor skills, climbing, dancing, holding a pencil, cup, spoon etc.

Cognitive Development

Early Maths activities, problem solving e.g. how to make a shape fit through a hole, how to use building blocks, carry sand etc

Staff Action

What staff will do to encourage development in each of the above areas

Parental Input

Your opportunity to add any comments/ideas you may have

Keyworker..... Date.....

Weekly Menu

Day		
Monday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Homemade vegetable soup and potatoes	Yoghurts fresh fruit
Tuesday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Cottage pie	Cheese & crackers Fresh fruit
Wednesday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Fish cakes, potatoes and mixed vegetables	Toasted pancakes Fresh fruit

Thursday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Chicken & broccoli bake with green beans	Apple crumble & custard Fresh fruit
Friday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Sausage casserole	Jam tarts Fresh fruit

Meals are prepared freshly each day by our cook; all meals are served with a choice of milk/water.

Drinks are available throughout the day. Fresh Fruit is available throughout the day.

Alternative meals can be supplied to suit dietary requirements.