

Little Learners

Little learners are based at Featherstone Academy and are open 9.00-3.00pm each day. We access a large playroom and a private outdoor space. We are able to currently cater for 16 children during each session at a child to staff ratio of 1:4 for our 2 year olds and 1:8 for our 3 year olds. The staffing structure is as follows:

Registered person- Mr Gatrad

Manager- Mrs Harvey

Full time Practitioner – Miss Hagan

Practitioner- Mrs Griffiths

The children are welcomed every morning by staff at the garden gate.

Throughout the day we encourage free flow for the children into our secure outdoor playground, we have a canopy over 50% of our garden meaning it can be accessed in all weathers. The room is arranged in a way, which allows the children to access all seven areas of learning throughout their play.

The children have free play time, outdoor play time, singing time, story time, small group time and spend time with staff completing activities based around their individual interests -

Our daily routine tends to be:

9.00-9.15- Welcoming and settling the other children into nursery- welcome songs

9.15-9.30- Register time, name cards and days of the week (Makaton)

9.30 -10.45- Free play / Outside play / Activity / Focus children interaction.

– (accessing all 7 areas of learning)

10.45-10.50– Tidy up/ hand washing.

10.50-11.10- Snack time

11.10-11.30- Outdoor play on big playground/ field.

11.30-11.40- Nappy changing/Toileting.

11.40-11.55-Small group time – singing/ stories/parachute/ yoga etc.

11.55- 12.05 Home time/ welcome afternoon children.

12.10-12.45 – Dinnertime

12.45-1.00- Quiet time- story/story CDS/ Naptime

1.00-1.10- Register time and name cards

1.10-2.20- Free play / Outside play / Activity / Focus children interaction.

2.20-2.30- Tidy up time/ Toileting/ Hand washing/ nappies.

2.30-2.45-snack time

2.45-3.00 –Small group time – singing/ stories/parachute/ yoga etc.

3.00- Going home.

We spend time with the children and get involved in their play, offering extensions and resources to further develop their interests and to teach them new skills when and where possible.

We have a guide for activities and cover topics such: My family and me, People who help us, mini beasts etc. However, we use this very flexibly and will change or adapt our ideas to go with children's interests and ideas.

Observations are taken throughout the day on the children while playing and completing activities of their choice. These observations form part of the children's learning journey and allow staff to track their progress in all seven areas of learning.

The child's key worker is allocated when the child starts at the setting and is on hand to make the settling in period easier. Key workers are also responsible for maintaining their children's learning journey and for completing a Childs "2 yr. progress check" between the child's 2nd and 3rd birthday. We share this progress review with parents and the Childs Health Visitor and encourage parents to share the results of the child's health check with us.

Staff do termly tracking that allows us to identify any gaps in your Childs learning and make plans to cover and support these areas.

We may ask parents in advance for resources such as egg boxes, water bottles, and junk modeling if we have an idea in mind for the following week. We always welcome extras in case anyone forgets.

We enjoy cooking activities in Little learners and really enjoy making shopping lists then fetching items for the shop. We would welcome a voluntary contribution of £1 a week towards our cooking activities and resources. This can be given to staff in a morning on the gate.

We like to attend special assemblies in the school and be part of school events and celebrations. We find that children then find it easier when moving into school as they are used to the hall and the routine. The children in little learners wear a simple uniform, which is a pale blue polo shirt and royal blue jumper/ cardigan; these do not have to be with the school emblem unless you wish. Little learners children can wear anything on the bottom half be it jogging bottoms, leggings, jeans etc. although some parents do prefer the school trousers/ skirts, which are, also fine

The children have access to the three toilets within the room and are able to access potties if they prefer when first training. We accept children still wearing nappies and will change the children throughout the day as needed. We ask parents to provide nappies, wipes and creams if needed and ask for consent for nappy cream to be applied. If children are potty training we ask for several sets of spare clothes and underwear in case of accidents.

Each child will be given a peg with their name and picture on and we encourage children to find their coats when coming and going outdoors. We ask parents to provide change of clothes and a pair of wellies in winter and sunhats and cream in summer so that we can access outdoors in all weather's.

A healthy, balanced and varied snack is provided during the morning and afternoon along with a drink of water or milk. Parents are asked to provide their child with a water bottle for drinks throughout the day. All children's allergies and eating requirements are taken into account and are clearly noted above the snack preparation area to remind all staff.

Throughout the sessions small group times and register times allow opportunities to sing, read stories, play small board games, exercise and talk about our day. The children are encouraged to recognise their names during registration and add their name to our registration board.

Parents are very much valued as partners in their child's learning and we share information at drop off and collection times. Alongside this we also welcome parents to share their child's achievements with us. We send home "busy bees" to be completed by parents when their child has done something good or positive at

home. We then share these with the children so they can show their friends, before displaying them on our wall display. We will award a child of the week in schools 'Golden book' assembly and the child who we choose will receive a certificate.

We always make ourselves available to speak with parents and welcome feedback or ideas from parents. Parents are required to fill in baseline forms with us when their child first starts so that we can gain an understanding of the children and where parents think they are in their development. We also ask parents to bring in the child's red book when they start so that staff can have an understanding of the child's health record. The information shared by parents on entry means we can plan for children's development right from the start because we have an understanding of their needs. We also ask for information about the children and what they like etc. so that we can have a better understanding of the children and maybe discuss things with them or put toys out for them that will help settle them.

We offer parents two "1 hour" trial sessions should they wish to take them, where children can come and play before their official start date. Where possible we use these times to complete the baseline questions and information sheets so that when the children start we are already fully aware of their needs and development.

We accept children who qualify for think two funding/ Nef funding and 30 hour funding. Alongside that, we have places for paying parents and the option to pay extra on top of funding hours. Children can bring a packed lunch or purchase a school meal. These costings are explained more on the application form.

Bills are produced half-termly in advance and payment will be due at the start of the term on the school MCAS system. Dinners are also charged on MCAS if your child requires a school meal. Payment plans can be made if arranged in advance (please see a member of staff). Sickness and holidays will still be charged except in the situation of prolonged illness at schools discretion

Admissions to little learners are done at the start of each term and for funding, is the term after your child's 2nd birthday. Once sessions are booked we would ask that those sessions remain until the end of term when changes can be made. However if it is one off changes to days and we can accommodate this we will try our best.

At little learners we work to Ofsted regulations and EYFS requirements, these are promoted through our policies and operating procedures. Copies of our policies are

kept on our school website for parents to access as they wish alternatively please let us know if you require copies and we can get them for you.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Little learners, should you require any further information or would like to look around our setting please feel free to contact Mrs Harvey either at iharvey@featherstone.uwmat.co.uk or through Featherstone Academy on 01902 734167 ext. 4.