

Little Learners

Little learners are based at Featherstone Academy and are open 8.45-3.00pm each day, we accept children who pay for sessions or who qualify for funding. We also provide a breakfast club for parents who may need to start earlier. This provision is from 8.15am -8.45 am each day and costs an additional £5. We will provide the children with cereal/toast/ pastries and a drink while they are in breakfast club.

We use 2 rooms alongside a private outdoor space. We are able to currently cater for 24 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- Mrs Jobling

Manager- Mrs Harvey

Full time Practitioner – Miss Hagan

Practitioner- Mrs Hilditch.

Practitioner: Mrs Knowles

The children are welcomed every morning by staff into the main room. We access both rooms where necessary and also encourage free flow for the children into our secure outdoor playground. The rooms are arranged in a way which allows the children to access all 7 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:

8.15-8.45- Optional Breakfast club (charged extra if needed)

8.45-9.00- Welcoming and settling the children into nursery- Go noodle/ dancing/ welcome songs

9.00-9.15- Register time, name cards and weather

9.15-11.15- Free play / Outside play / Individual next steps / Focus children interaction.

– (accessing all 7 areas of learning)

10.15-11.00– Hand washing/ Snack time.

11.00-11.15- Nappy changing/Toileting

11.15-11.40 - Small group time – singing/ stories/parachute etc.

11.40-11.50– Home time/ welcome afternoon children.

11.50-12.00- Hand washing/ Toileting

12.00-12.45 – Dinnertime

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

1.00-1.15- Register time and name cards

1.15-2.15- Free play / Outside play / individual next steps / Focus children interaction.

2.15-2.35- Toileting/ Hand washing/ Snack time.

2.35-2.45-Nappy changing

2.45-3.00 –Story time /Going home.

We focus on 3/4 children each week as part of their development, we spend time with these 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 like to focus on particular areas of learning on certain days each we week. We will have a Messy day, a PE day, a Creative day, a Story day and a Music day. This will be varied and will only be for a fraction of the day, the children will still have many opportunities for free play and their ideas will still lead our activities. Each morning we will have the sign in the corridor stating what area of learning we are doing that day. Our messy activities are VERY MESSY so we do ask for an old set of clothes that we can keep/ wash and store for these days.

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.

These teachable moments are recorded on a learning journal which is then shared with parents at the end of each term. We also have a PE session once a week in the school hall starting during the spring term and we attend special assemblies in the school. We find that children then find it easier when moving into school as they are used to the hall and the routine.

Observations are taken throughout the day on the children while playing and completing activities of their choice. These observations are carried out on the iPad on the program Tapestry. These observations form part of the children's profile along with a copy of the learning journals and allow staff to track their progress in all 7 areas of learning. Next steps are identified from all these observations for each child and these next steps are used to help staff provide suitable activities and resources to further support the children's development.

Gaps in children's learning are reviewed through progress reviews which are carried out at the end of each term. The 2 year progress review are shared with parents and their comments and input are welcomed.

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 profiles and for completing a Childs "2 yr. progress check" between the child's 2nd and 3rd birthday. We share this progress review with the child's Health Visitor and encourage parents to share the results of the child's health check with us.

The children have access to the 3 toilets within the room and also 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.

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.

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 for opportunities to sing, read stories, play small board games and talk about our day. The children are encouraged to recognise their names during registration and do our weather chart.

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 "pow wow's" 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 taking a photograph for the profiles and then displaying them on our 'super hero' 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 and the teddy to take home for the weekend. This gives the children a talking point during circle time when they can tell their friends about the adventures with the teddy. 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 which 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 have a class dojo system throughout school which allows us to

send home messages, pictures and reminders to parents. The system is 2 way meaning parents can also send messages to staff at any time and we do try our best to respond as soon as possible. You will be given a code to join class dojo when your child starts in Little learners.

We have a school nature dog 'OZZY'. Ozzy is in school each day and often visits Little learners. Ozzy is used throughout school and he reads with the children, is used as comfort or to calm the children. Ozzy often visits our new children to make them feel at home and help them settle in. Permission slips for your child to have contact with Ozzy will be included in the application form. Ozzy is a cockerpoo.

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 little.learners@featherstoneacademy.co.uk or through Featherstone Academy on 01902 734167 ext. 4.