



LITTLE GADDESSEN  
Preschool

and  
Forest School



# Prospectus

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# About Us



Situated in the heart of Little Gaddesden village, Little Gaddesden Preschool and Forest School is an Early Years provision for children aged 2 to rising 5, where they can gain a great foundation for their journey into education.

We aim to provide high quality care and education for children below statutory school age, working in partnership with parents to help children learn and develop. The local community plays a big part in the life of the setting, using the different experiences widely available to enrich the children's learning and development.

Outdoor learning places a large impact on the day-to-day experiences that the children attending the preschool have. There are vast, open rural surroundings such as woods, playing fields and footpaths galore. These are used frequently by the children to enhance their learning experiences incorporating the outdoor environment as a second classroom.



# Forest School



**Forest School allows children the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through a range of activities which provide practical, hands-on experiences in the natural environment.**

**Forest School is an important part of our curriculum at Little Gaddesden Preschool & Forest School.**

**Sessions take place in a local area of woodland, field/meadow close to the preschool. Children spend a whole morning/day session in our Forest**

**School area engaging with nature, exploring, investigating and learning through nature. The session is carefully planned and managed by our qualified Forest School Leader.**

**There are so many benefits to your child participating in Forest School, here are a few...**

- ❖ **Builds confidence and independence**
- ❖ **Physical fitness**
- ❖ **Positive Health**
- ❖ **Improved Mental Health**
- ❖ **Learning through experiences**
- ❖ **Managing risk**



## Outdoor Learning

As well as Forest School we promote a lot of Outdoor Learning.

We use our outdoor area every day to support, enhance and promote the children's learning and development. Daily activities and resources are planned in this area alongside the permanent resources that the children have access to, including our vegetable patch.



We like to take the children out and about within the local environment and further afield. We go on regular walks in the surrounding area of the Preschool, often doing activities in the playing field, visiting the park or church, walks in the woods or visiting the farm animals.

This broadens each child's experiences, enhancing their learning and development in a different environment and enabling them to experience nature and the world around them.

Occasionally we will go on trips further afield if it is linked with something, we are learning about e.g., Post Office or Shops. Prior notice of these trips is given.





## Our Curriculum

We offer a high quality, child centred approach to learning and development, encouraging the children to learn through play and, real life experiences. Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be how young children learn to think. Play allows children to immerse themselves fully in the world and environment around them, enabling high levels of engagement to occur and in turn high levels of learning to take place.



We use guidance from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) alongside regular assessments on your child to plan and provide a range of resources and play opportunities which help children to make progress in all aspects of their own learning and development. In these activities' children decide how they will use the resources, what pathway it will take, and the adult is there to join in as a partner to support their learning.

We support young children's learning and development by firstly building a strong and meaningful relationship with them. We ensure we spend lots of quality time interacting with them, role modelling learning, and offering support and challenge when needed. Enabling us to tailor our curriculum to meet the needs and interests of each individual child.



We use the information that we gain from these interactions, observations, as well as photographs of the children, to document their progress, where this may be leading them and how we can enable them to make progress.

Parents play an important part in this assessment by contributing their knowledge of their children. Termly assessments are done on your child, with yourselves, to enable us to jointly monitor your child's ongoing development and ensure they are on track for developing successfully.

The setting keeps a learning journal for each child. Staff and parents working together on their child's learning journal is one of the ways in which we work in partnership with you. Your child's learning journal helps us to celebrate together his/her achievements and work together to provide what your child needs for his/her well-being and to make progress. The key



person will keep this record by obtaining information about your child's needs, activities, interests, and achievements. This information is collated and put into the journal making a record of your child's individual learning journey at the preschool.

Below is a document containing further information on the EYFS:

**'What to Expect in the EYFS' –**

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

## Links with Local Primary Schools and Other Settings



We feel it is very important for us to form strong relationships with all the local schools and other settings that the children attending our preschool go to. This helps the children with their transition when they leave us to move into Reception Class and enables us to gain a better understanding of each child's individual development under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

We link up with Little Gaddesden School (situated next door) regularly, having visits to them or they come to us. We encourage other settings to come and visit the preschool to share knowledge of the children's development. Please let us know if your child attends another setting or which school, they will be moving onto so that we can build these links.





## Partnership with Parents

Parents are regarded as members of our setting who have full participatory rights including being valued, respected, informed, consulted, involved and included at all levels. Parents are recognised as the first and most important educators of their children.

We encourage partnership with parents through the exchanging of knowledge about your child's needs, interests and progress in development. Parents can take part in sessions by sharing their own interests and skills with the children and help with activities that we are doing at the setting.

Parents Consultations are held twice a year enabling you to come and see the setting and have an informal chat with your child's key worker about their progress. It is also a nice opportunity for parents who do not drop off/pick up regularly to see what their child does during their time at preschool and meet other parents.

## Settle In/Home Visits

We want your child to feel happy and secure from their first day with us. To make sure this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child settle into the setting. Our transition process offers flexibility to families, ensuring that the child's needs are at the heart of this process. We sensitively tailor the transition process to ensure that the child's emotional wellbeing is met, and they can settle into Preschool feeling safe and secure. We offer the opportunity for each child to have stay and play sessions, with their parents and a home visit from their key person before they start. This is great opportunity for staff to get to know the child and their family and vice versa to help with the transition.



## Uniform

There is an option for you to purchase items of uniform if you wish to. We have t-shirts and jumpers available with the Preschool logo on them. This enables the children to get used to wearing a uniform before they start at school and gives them a sense of belonging and identity. It also protects your child's clothes, as much as we do try to protect their clothing with aprons and outdoor wear for your child to use sometimes, they can still get grubby.



## Lunch Club

There is the opportunity for your child to attend Lunch Club. Lunch Club is a great opportunity for children to develop their social skills, having the opportunity to sit and talk with their peers and adults whilst learning life skills associated with mealtimes.



We ask that you bring a packed lunch for your child if they attend Lunch Club containing a healthy balanced meal for your child to eat (no nuts, chocolate or sweets).

# Opening Times

## Term Time

**Monday:** Breakfast Club 8am – 9am  
Morning Session 9am – 12pm  
Lunch Club 12 – 1pm

**Tuesday:** Breakfast Club 8am – 9am  
Morning Session 9am – 12pm  
Lunch Club 12 – 1pm  
Full Day 9am – 3pm

**Wednesday:** Breakfast Club 8am – 9am  
Morning Session 9am – 12pm  
Lunch Club 12 – 1pm  
Full Day 9am – 3pm

**Thursday:** Breakfast Club 8am – 9am  
Morning Session 9am – 12pm  
Lunch Club 12 – 1pm  
Full Day 9am – 3pm

**Friday:** Breakfast Club 8am – 9am  
Morning Session 9am – 12pm  
Lunch Club 12 – 1pm  
Full Day 9am – 3pm

# Fees

There is no fee to be on our waiting list. Upon your child being offered and you accepting a preschool place there is a **deposit of £65.00** which secures the place for your child.

Please find below a list of current fees charged:

- 8am – 9am Breakfast Club - **£9.30**
- 9am – 12pm Session - **£24.40**
- 9am – 1pm Session - **£32.20**
- 9am – 3pm Session - **£47.80**

Occasional additional hours can be requested and will be accepted dependent upon availability.

- Additional hours - **£7.80**
- \*Consumables charge - **£1.00**
- \*Breakfast charge - **£1.50**

***2, 3 & 4-year-old 15 hours and 3 & 4-year-old 30 hours  
Childcare Support Funding is available***

**We do accept payment by Child Care Vouchers, please ask us for specific account details, and the Tax-Free Childcare scheme.**

To find out more information about these funding and payment options, please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk).

**10% Sibling Discount & 5% Full Week Booking Discounts are available.**

**Please enquire for further details.**

*\*only applicable to children on Early Education Funding & Childcare Support Funding schemes*