

Little Explorers

Outdoor Pre-School

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Highway Farm Activity Centre

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Welcome to Little Explorers Outdoor Pre-School

Aims of our Provision

- To provide opportunities for the children to experience the outdoors for long periods of time whilst learning through both adult led and child initiated play.
- To experience and explore the outdoors in all weathers and seasons.
- To encourage children to respect the outdoors, diverse weather conditions, the beauty, forms of nature and the changing seasons.
- To provide opportunities to develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- To complement and extend learning through the outdoors.
- To provide children with life long learning ethos and the ability to take risks, have their own ideas and solve problems.
- To provide and promote life skills needed for future life and future learning.
- To provide learning opportunities using natural materials and the local environment, whilst connecting with nature.
- To encourage children to 'play' and explore the world whilst fulfilling exciting, meaningful, learning outcomes.



Martin
Owner/manager of centre
Leader of Hive Class.
Level 3 EY practitioner
Specialism: Outdoor Learning, Camp Fires & Bush Craft



Jane
Owner/manager of centre
Level 3 EY Practitioner
Specialism:
Camp Fire Cooking
Designated safeguarding lead



Matt
Primary teacher. Leader of Tevi Lodge class.
Specialism: Foraging, survival, endurance.
Ex mountain rescue.



Ken
Tevi Lodge class. Level 3 EY Practitioner
Specialism:
Outdoor play & Holiday clubs



Barbara
Hive class. Level 3 EY Practitioner.
Specialism: growing and planting



Sarah
Bank staff. BSc in Early Childhood Studies. Specialism: arts & crafts

Little Explorers

... is part of Highway Farm Activity Centre. We operate in 2 Eco friendly timber buildings with a back to basics, cosy atmosphere. The buildings are heated by log burners and water is heated on them. We have compost toilets and are wrapped internally with carbon zero insulation. We try to offer the best of both worlds with a secure natural indoor space, a stimulating and challenging outdoor, enclosed area, all surrounded by an acre and a half field for the freedom and exhilaration the natural outdoors has to offer.

We take children from 3 years old until they start school (or almost 3).

From September 2017, the government extended the free childcare entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds to 30 hours per week for parents who work 16 hours or more. Everybody gets a minimum of 15 hours free. Also, 2 year olds (of working parents) now also get 15 hours of free funding per week.

A typical day starts in a relaxing way. From September until October half term, and from Easter onwards, we start our day outside. Over the winter we spend the first couple of hours in our cosy classrooms before getting kitted up to spend the rest of the day outside. We have devised our own, unique curriculum, based on the Early Years Framework, which is supported by Development Matters.

The children tend to the fruit and vegetables they grow on site and ensure they are watered and nurtured, which we use when cooking on the camp fire.

Opportunities are presented through the outdoors in a range of purposeful contexts for children to appreciate and respect nature. Most of our resources are from natural materials found in the local environment. We plant, nurture, harvest and eat vegetables and fruit and incorporate physical opportunities into every day activities.

We support and encourage children through outdoor learning to develop their emotional confidence and self esteem. Children are also supported and encouraged to manage their own risks and to develop their life skills through using the correct tools for a purpose.



Learning Journeys

Each child will have a Learning Journey which will tell a story about their learning and development over time. It celebrates their experiences and shows their time with us. It will contain photos, work and observations which will demonstrate the progress made by your child. We will regularly look through the folder with your child to remind us of happy times, providing a starting point for talk about shared memories.

We value and welcome parental comments throughout the year about your child's learning and development, which we will add to the Learning Journey.

Staff watch and notice each child at play because it helps us to understand and support their individual well being and development. We really get to know the children as unique people with special skills, interests and ideas. The more we understand about your special child, the better we can support them in the way which is right for them.

Your child's key person and family work together. We value parents and carers taking the learning journey home and sharing the book together.

Please feel welcome to join us in watching out for and noting new things. So much happens, so quickly! When you tell us about your child a clearer picture unfolds and together we can plan more effectively to help the learning on. We can share pleasure and excitement in their learning.

EYFS- The seven areas of learning and development

Prime Areas

Communication & Language

Listening and attention
Understanding
Speaking

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills
Fine Motor Skills

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Self Regulation
Managing Self
Building Relationships.

Specific Areas

Literacy

Comprehension
Word Reading
Writing

Mathematics

Number
Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World

Past and Present
People, Culture and Communities
The Natural World

Expressive arts & design

Creating with Materials
Being imaginative and Expressive

Communication & Language



Uses a wide range of vocabulary.....

Sings songs and rhymes...

Enjoys listening to stories and remembers what happens.....



Take turns in conversations....



To listen carefully...

Tells stories...



Be able to express a point of view.....



Physical Development

Use one handed tools and equipment.....



Develop various movement (balancing, climbing and ball skills etc....)

Use large and small motor skills to do things independently...



Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan...



Use and remember patterns and sequences of movements related to music and rhythm...

Handles tools and equipment safely.....



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Select and use resources.....

Show more confidence in new social situations.....



Play with others,
extending play ideas...

Aware of boundaries and
behavioural expectations.....

Find solutions to conflict...

Learn to follow rules, understanding
why they are important.



Talk about their feelings,
understand how others might be
feeling.....

Literacy

Enjoy and talk about stories.....

Joins in with songs and rhymes.....

Understand that print has meaning, recognises words with the same initial sounds.....



Makes marks for a purpose...

Learn new vocabulary.....



Mathematics



Explore size, length, weight and capacity.....

Interested in numbers in the environment.....



Link numerals and amounts.....

Solve real world mathematical problems...

Compare quantities...



Talk about and explore shapes and patterns.....

Use and understand positional language.....

Understanding the World

Uses senses when exploring.....

Talk about what they see...

Explore how things work...



Shows care for living things and the environment.....



Growing....

Develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.....



Explore how things work.....



Develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.....

Expressive Arts and Design

Engages in role play....



Develop own ideas and choose materials to express them....

Explore colours and colour mixing....

Sings songs and explore musical instruments....



Children's Needs

We meet the needs of all our children through planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self esteem and confidence;

- Using a wide range of resources and activities, mainly outdoors, based on children's learning needs;
- Providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children and to help them to learn effectively;
- Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued;
- Using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- Planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their language and communication skills;
- Monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support if necessary.

Promoting Independence

At Highway Farm we always encourage children to "have a go" at doing things for themselves. During their time with us we help children take responsibility for themselves and their belongings. For example, putting on all in one suits, peeling fruit at snack time, opening packets in lunch boxes and toileting. Of course we are always there to give a helping hand if required.

As part of EYFS curriculum we have designed our outdoor space and activities to naturally encompass the characteristics of effective learning.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

These are:

Playing and Exploring: Engagement:

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being able to "have a go"

Active Learning: Motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying what they set out to do

Creating and Thinking Critically

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

Pricing Structure

Session	Times	Cost
Morning session	8am-1pm 9am-1pm	£35 or (5hrs of funding) £28 or (4hrs of funding)
Afternoon session	1pm-3.30pm 1pm-4.30pm	£17.50 or (2.5 hrs of funding) £25 or (3.5 hrs of funding)
Full day	8am-3.30pm 9am-4.30pm	£50 or (7.5hrs of funding) £50 or (7.5hrs of funding)
Extra hour	8am-9am 3.30pm-4.30pm	£7.50 or (1 hour of funding) £7.50 or (1 hour of funding)
Breakfast club	8am-9am	£1 per session for food to be provided (or parents can provide.)

Voluntary contribution to cover additional snacks/ campfire resources **£5 per term.**

School holidays	8.30am-5.30pm	£45
	8.30am-1pm or 1pm-5.30pm	£25

Please note:

- Child tax credits may be able to be claimed for the non funded hours.
- We accept childcare vouchers
- We accept payment by bank transfer and by debit card or cash payment

Daily Kit List

Drinks bottle

Packed lunch (with healthy snack e.g.. Fruit or veg for 1st snack)

Wear warm old clothes

Full spare change of clothes including socks and underwear

Wear old sensible footwear, wellies.

Waterproof warm coat

Gloves, hat, scarf in cold weather

Sun hat/cream in sunny weather

All in one warm suit—we are out in all weathers

Slippers or slipper socks to wear inside (can leave here)



PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHING

Recipe of the Day

- 8-9am breakfast club, which will take place in the main building each day. In order to attend breakfast club,
 - children **MUST** be dropped off between **08:00 and 8:30**. At 08:45 children will be taken from the main building to their own class spaces. **During this transition time,**
 - **children will NOT be able to be dropped off so children should NOT arrive between 08:30 and 09:00**. If you don't need your child to start until a bit later, then they can be dropped off straight to their own classroom/
 - outdoor space between 09:00 and 09:30.
 - From September to October half term we start our day outside, and again, from April to July. During winter we start inside the classroom.
- * Free choice play until all the children have arrived (by 9.30am)
- Gather for circle time.
 - First snack (healthy snack: fruit/veg/ rice cake etc from children's lunch boxes.)
 - Outdoor playing and learning/ focused activity. Child initiated play... following children's interests.
 - Lunch at 12 noon (ish!)
 - 1pm Afternoon session. Child initiated outdoor play and Learning - visit various spaces.
 - 3.30 or 4.30pm home time.
You are welcome to pick your child up earlier if necessary.
Also a staggered pick up can help with congestion in the carpark.

General Information

- If your child is not attending breakfast club, please try to drop them off before 9.30, so they can be part of the learning at the start of the day.
- Children will need warm, waterproof clothing. (We recommend padded all in one suits during colder months)
- Please ensure all items are clearly named, including drinks bottles and lunch boxes.
- Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellington boots.
- Children need to be dropped to their class (either Tevi Lodge or The Hive each morning (unless attending breakfast club.) During the first week, follow the coloured ribbons to the correct space!
- Each class consists of family groups of 2 (nearly 3), 3 and 4 year olds.
- When collecting your child, you will need to ring the bell. A member of staff will bring your child to the gate.



Settling Sessions

Generally children settle very well into Highway Farm. To ease your child in we would like to work together to meet your child's needs. For the first few sessions you might want to leave your child for an hour, or 2 hours and build up gradually to longer days. Staff can talk individually to parents about this if required. Staff are very experienced and nurturing and would always call if any problems arise.

