



....Where every child can shine!

## Prospectus







## Our Philosophy

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“The most important  
lessons in life are  
caught, not taught”

Sue Palmer,

Toxic Childhood

At Little Star we have not forgotten the joy of finding a cobweb  
laced with dew, a shiny conker fresh out of its shell or the fun  
of jumping in puddles. Play is structured but child led and in  
this way can lead us in any direction – wooden blocks  
transform into a dog on a lead; pebbles become boulders for  
diggers and a sheet of fabric butterfly wings. Children learn  
best when stimulated, interested and excited by life and we will  
help each individual learn in their unique way – be it as a super  
hero or botanist.

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# The Environment

We pride ourselves upon offering a welcoming and positive environment that provides the home – from – home conditions needed for children to gain a sense of belonging in their new nursery “family”. We recognise that for many this may be the first time away from their home and family so by offering somewhere loving, safe and secure we can help them to form the necessary new attachments away from what is familiar.

## The indoor environment



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“Learning is from experience. Everything else is just information”

Albert Einstein

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We offer a diverse range of activities such as clay moulding, cooking, science exploration, construction, small world play and many messy play and creative ideas. Daily opportunities are given for important skills such as mark making, social interaction and decision making. Meaningful experiences are provided for the children to learn about themselves, their families, other cultures and the community.

The layout is planned to give children always a choice of play and interaction: a chance to be alone, immersed in a book, one on one time with a member of staff, the freedom to choose their own imaginative play with peers, to make their own discoveries.





## The Outdoor environment



The luxury of having a large garden area to the rear of the nursery provides the space and freedom to be children. Access to the outdoors is now offered all day, all year round with an under cover decking area immediately outside. Thus opportunities for un – interrupted child – directed play are extended, allowing their social skills to become more sophisticated, thinking in depth and “real”: all important qualities to take with them onto school and throughout their lives!

Large motor skills are enhanced as children engage in kicking, throwing, climbing, crawling and running. Imaginative play develops as they create a story in the play house (be it their “home” or space base). Activities can be carried out on a much larger scale, as the children happily make coloured footprints across the tarpaulin or weave through the fences.



## Nature School and the wider environment



Learning does not stop within the confines of the nursery boundaries at Little Star as we embrace the wonderful opportunities that the countryside around us offers. Taking the children on Nature School expeditions to the nearby woods or fields allows offers a chance to experience the changing seasons, explore the world around them and look at life from a new perspective.

Children become aware of the community we live in as we go out into the village of Farrington Gurney, as we may embark on a shape walk, visit the local farm shop or have fun at the park.





## Learning and development



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“While we try to teach our children all about life, Our children teach us what life is all about”

Angela Schwindt

All children are allocated a key person on entry to nursery, who becomes their play partner as we support the child in their learning and development. We actively involve the child and the family in our planning so create a programme of play designed to meet their individual needs, that is based on their interests and passions, and yet meets the requirements of the statutory Early Years Framework.

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## Healthy Eating



We have a very strong belief in feeding the children's bodies as well as their minds through a diet of healthy eating. Fresh fruit is always served at snack time and a balanced cooked meal at lunch: with only locally sourced well reared meat and organic veg. Children are encouraged to play an active role in keeping themselves healthy: by thinking about where their food comes from, growing our own vegetables in the garden and why eating well is important.

We are committed to the government initiatives of the Early Year's Healthy Eating and Physical Development Awards.







....where your baby can shine

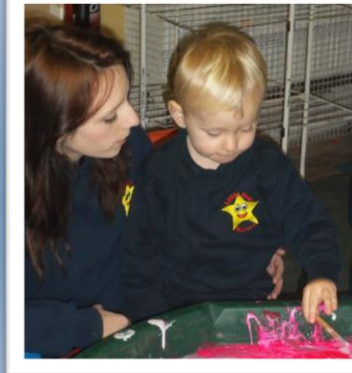
- ✦ Small baby group of no more than 3 under 2 years old
- ✦ Personalised care
- ✦ A stimulating environment for your baby to grow and learn
- ✦ Great use of the outdoor environment
- ✦ Informed, highly qualified staff
- ✦ A friendly home from home setting



## Who we are



**Kate Wilson** is joint owner and Manager of Little Star, Farrington Gurney. She has a level 6 Early Years Professional qualification and oversees the Nature School. She is also Equal Opportunities Leader. She is a key person for the pre school children.



**Emily Crawford** is our Deputy Manager and holds a level 6 qualification as Postgraduate Studies in Early Childcare. She oversees the baby and toddler age group which includes implementing the Toddler Quality Scheme.



**Abbie Mitchell** has a level 3 Btech qualification in childcare and is our Baby Practitioner, overseeing the Baby Quality Scheme



**Nadine Maggs** (soon to be Bailey!), is completing her level 3 childcare qualification in 2013. She currently is key person for the pre school children as well as being our wonderful cook and devises a delicious, healthy menu.





**Gemma Green** has an NVQ level 3 in childcare and has 2 year's experience of working with toddlers. She joins us as a key person for the toddlers and is helping implement the Toddler Quality scheme



**Sue Allen** holds a level 2 qualification in childcare. She has many years experience of caring for children, as well as having 4 grandchildren of her own.



**Vicki Suffern** has a level 3 pre school diploma qualification and her experience of working with children includes having 4 of her own! She is Key Person for the pre school children as well as being Special Educational Needs Co ordinator



**Melanie Pitt**, an experienced childminder, joins us to delight the children with her songs and stories on a regular basis.



Session times and fees for the academic year 2013/14 2 – 5 yr olds

**Session times**

8 – 8.30

The morning session begins at 8.30 and ends at either 12.30 or 1.30 (lunch being served during this hour)

Standard afternoon sessions begin at either 12.30 or 1.30

Afternoon/ day sessions end at 3.30, 4.30, 5.30 or 6pm.

**Pricing**

8am – 8.30 *	£2.50
Hours between 8.30 & 5.30 charged at <i>hourly rate</i> of	£4.20**
5.30 – 6*	£2.50

**Prices for 12 – 24 month yr olds**

Charged at a standard rate of £4.70 p/hour, inclusive of meals and drinks.

Session times as above

\*hours not eligible for NEG funding

\*\*when NEG free hours can be claimed

**A well balanced, nutritious home cooked lunch is served at 12.30 at an additional cost of £2**

***For more information about the NEG funding please see separate document.***



Complete sets of all the nursery's policies and procedures are available at all times on the notice board or log on to: [www.littlestarnursery.co.uk](http://www.littlestarnursery.co.uk). Alternatively ask a member of staff.

Contact details:

Nursery tel: 01761 452142

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