

Things to Consider when Choosing a Nursery

Although there are many practical questions all parents should ask or be aware of, it is also important for parents to know that the nursery they choose will work with them to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.

Offering structure within a caring and nurturing environment will help to prepare your child physically, emotionally and academically for school. Children should have access to a wide curriculum and lots of ways to communicate, meaning their individual assessment can be thorough and supportive as they grow.

What are the benefits of starting nursery early?

Parents should feel confident that their children are planned for and supported as individuals, with flexibility and encouragement paving the way to strong confident relationships, and significantly the earlier children start at nursery the better as they have so many more opportunities to play with and interact with their peers as they learn to become independent.

New parents are often understandably worried about leaving their children with people they don't know, which is why good nurseries offer complimentary taster or settling in sessions. Each child is different so it's important to offer this opportunity to settle in to suit each child's needs. Offering flexibility of 2/3 sessions or even as much as 8/10 sessions is important, as this is the time when parents can get to know staff and start building relationships, hopefully making them comfortable and happy to trust their child into the nursery's care.

Are all nurseries the same?

All nurseries offer similar routines and care, but all will vary in their care offer and appearance. Little Trinity is in a very old building that is warm and friendly, and parents often say how homely and welcoming it is. The rooms are not too big, so our children feel safe and secure with lots of space to play and explore, both indoors and outside. We also have the added benefit of regular access to school facilities including an indoor heated swimming pool, gymnasium, concert hall and playing fields which offers further creative and group opportunities.

As a nursery we feel it is important to reinvest so each year we try to start a new scheme or offer new resources. Schemes we have introduced over the past three years have included a sharing library, where children get to choose a book from the library to take home and share with family, encouraging communication and language. We have also introduced 'funky' fingers' which encourages the development of upper body strength and finger and hand strength for control. By incorporating these types of activities daily we can support children's fine motor skill development and promote the strengthening of wrist, hand and finger movements in preparation for writing. We undertake five activities per week which the children thoroughly enjoy.

A phonics and number programme helps children to learn and retain knowledge through weekly practical games and activities and we have recently opened a new outside learning area with direct access from the classroom, offering free-access between in and outdoor areas. Little Trinity's IT equipment also incorporates a 48inch learning tablet which the children can use individually or in groups.

Why is it beneficial parents are involved in nursery activities?

Children learn best if parents and nursery work together and in harmony, which is why we keep parents fully informed of events and activities and include parents in our activities wherever possible. Parents play a vital and pivotal role in the planning and assessment process for their child, with staff encouraging and building strong relationships with all our parents and extended family members.

Are there many occasions where children, years later, enrol their children at Little Trinity?

Yes. Little Trinity has always enjoyed a close relationship with Holy Trinity School, with many of our parents previously attending either the nursery or school themselves. As a parent, now they wish their child to have that same, strong sense of family and belonging that they enjoyed so many years before.

What do you want parents take away with them after a visit to Little Trinity Nursery?

We want them to know we care and have their child's best interests at heart.

We want them to trust that we will work hard to support their child and prepare them for the next steps in their education and life beyond nursery.

We want them to remember the happy faces of the children as they passed through our nursery and the confidence the children displayed.

And, we want them to feel that this is the right place for their child; to want to join us and be part of our Little Trinity family and making fantastic new memories for their child's early years.