

CATERPILLARS NURSERY

PARENTS' INFORMATION BOOKLET

Child's Name:

Name of New Nursery:

Move date:

Visit dates:

New Key worker:

Other staff working alongside key worker:

Direct Line Phone Number: 0118 918 7652

Email address: chilternfoundation@chilternntc.com

WELCOME TO CHILTERN NURSERIES

We aim to provide a welcoming, stimulating and happy environment in which children can learn through play and enhance their social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.

The children are cared for in homely, family groups.

We believe that all children have a right to grow up and learn in an environment that is free from prejudice and discrimination. Each child should be valued and respected as an individual, have their needs met and have the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential. We recognise the wide-ranging needs of children and their families within the community and endeavour to play a part in meeting their needs.

Our nurseries are open 51 weeks of the year, from 8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday.

We are registered with OFSTED and inspected regularly to ensure that we meet the required standards. A copy of our Certificate is displayed on the Parents' Notice Board. The Nursery has Public Liability Insurance and Employers' Liability Insurance.

You will be provided with a copy of the Nursery's Policies and Procedures, which cover areas such as Health and Safety, Parents as Partners, Safeguarding Children and Behaviour Management. These policies and procedures are intended to inform you and support staff in the provision of a high standard of care and education for your child. Please can you ensure that you read them fully. If you have any questions the Nursery Co-ordinator will be happy to discuss them with you.

As Nursery Manager I am responsible for the development and overall management of the nurseries. Each of the departments has a Nursery Co-ordinator who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the nurseries and they will normally be your first point of call.

I hope that your child settles well into the Nursery and enjoys his/her time with us. Please remember that we are always happy to discuss with you any matters about your child's care and education, however small they may seem.

Nicola Richards
Nursery Manager

WELCOME TO CATERPILLARS NURSERY

In this nursery we care for and educate children from 2- 4 years of age. In addition to the nursery room we also have access to a soft play area, a large common room and well-equipped gardens.

Staff

The nursery is staffed with fully qualified Early Years Practitioners. A qualified, experienced Room Leader oversees the room, assisted by a Deputy Room Leader. Staff members have up to date paediatric first aid, health and safety, food hygiene and safeguarding children training and access to our on-going staff development programme. Childcare students/trainees work alongside our staff in the nursery as part of their studies at the College. Vanessa Milne is the Nursery Co-ordinator for Caterpillars nursery

Your child will be allocated a key person, who will liaise with you on a one-to-one basis. They will form a bond with you and your child to help ensure a smooth transition from home to nursery. However, all members of staff in the nursery will get to know your child well and be able to answer any of your questions or queries. Our staff ratio for this age group is 1 member of staff to 4 children.

Key Person

The role of the Key Person is:

- To induct the child and the parents/carers and make them feel comfortable and welcome.
- To form a special relationship with the child and the child's parents/carers.
- To keep the child's parents/carers informed about the child and her/his progress.
- To share information about the child with other members of the team as appropriate.
- To ensure that other members of the team are informed about any particular need that the child may have.
- To ensure that the child is cared for in line with the parents' wishes.
- To complete observations on the child as appropriate.
- To feed into planning meetings information gained from observations.
- To keep the child's records up to date.
- To respond to young children's individual routine care needs.

Settling In

In order to make the transition into the nursery as smooth as possible, we will work with you to take into account you and your child's individual needs. New environments can be unsettling and confusing for everyone and every child/family is different. Therefore it can be difficult to predict how you and your child will respond to the changes and all plans made will need to be flexible. We will also need to take into account the constraints you may have on your time if you are returning to work during this visiting period.

Your child's key person will arrange with you an induction and a succession of settling in visits. They will support your child as they explore and become familiar with their new environment.

How you can help

- Share your knowledge with the key person. This will help us to build up a whole picture of your child
- Ask questions and discuss concerns with your key person. This will help you to feel more prepared and confident about the change.
- Allow time for the initial visits. During these visits your child will spend time in the nursery, with you near-by in our parent's room, should they need extra support from you.

When a child moves on to school or another setting we will share with them (with your permission) the child's records of achievement and any other relevant documentation, which could help to ease the transition to a new setting. We welcome visits from members of staff from other settings, giving them the chance to meet the child in a nursery setting.

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of staff and parents working together to ensure that your child's needs are met and that the transition from home to nursery is as smooth as possible. Please discuss any concerns with staff in the nursery so that we can work together to solve them. We like to hear about some of the things that your child does outside of nursery so that we can talk to him/her about them.

If at any time you would like to discuss your child's development or time at nursery in more detail, please don't hesitate to ask us to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

Each key group has its own display board in the nursery. Displayed on these boards are examples of the children's artwork and photographs of their achievements and activities. We would love you to bring in items from home to display here as well. E.g. photos of events, days out, certificates or anything that is important to your child.

The nursery staff will keep you informed about all aspects of your child's care in a number of ways, such as:

- Talking with you informally at the beginning and end of each session.
- Displaying notices in the nurseries giving you information on events and activities taking place in the nurseries.
- Providing you with information about your child's day.
- Providing regular newsletters to keep you in touch with life in the nurseries.
- Displaying photographs of the children enjoying their activities and play.
- Completing regular observations on your child and sending them home for your comments.

We operate an open door policy and parents are welcomed into the nursery at all times. If you have a skill or area of expertise that you would like to share with us

we would value your contribution. If you wish to telephone the nursery to enquire about your child we are happy for you to do this. Our direct line telephone number is: **0118 9187652**. We are also contactable on the College number: 0118 9471847 from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Children's Care, Learning and Development

The nursery believes in children learning through play, through enjoyment of what they are doing and through interaction with caring, supportive adults. We provide a wide range of appropriate activities and experiences both inside and out, which we believe the children will enjoy and which are based on the concept of children learning through play.

Provision for children's care, learning and development is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. This is a framework for all OFSTED registered early years settings for children from birth to five. The EYFS takes into consideration the care, development and learning opportunities that should be provided for all children.

For more information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework please visit www.direct.gov.uk/eyfs and <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk>

In Caterpillars Nursery the children's age range is from 2 years – 4 years. During their time with us you will notice many changes in your child's overall development.

Their language skills will develop a great deal and many of the activities that we provide will help to support this. We have put together some information packs and resources for parents, which you are welcome to borrow. We hope that they will help to inform you about a child's Communication, Language and Literacy Development.

You will also notice that most children will want to be more independent and start to develop their self-help skills, e.g. feeding themselves, dressing themselves, toilet training. We try to allow the children the opportunity to do as much as possible for themselves and to make choices whenever possible. This allows the child to feel more in control and can help to minimise feelings of frustration, which can often manifest itself in a 'temper tantrum'. We will work with you to decide on an appropriate time to start toilet training your child.

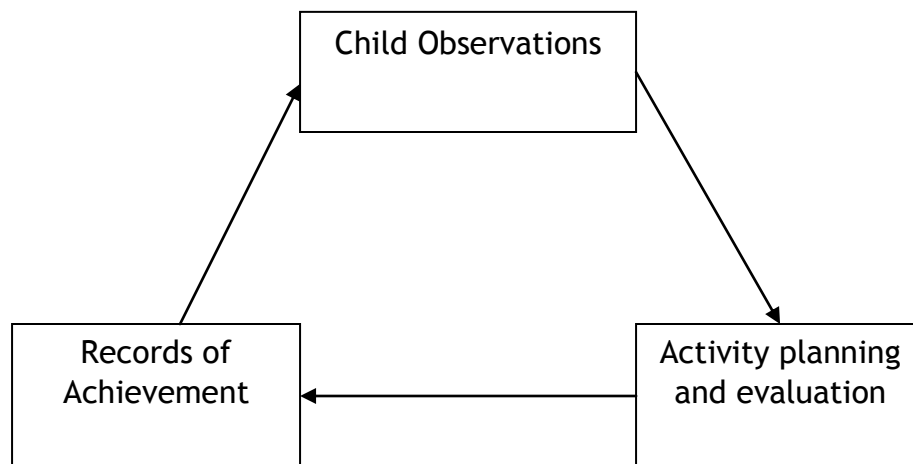
Phonics

Throughout your child's time in Caterpillars Nursery we will be looking at letter sounds (phonics). This is part of a national strategy which promotes literacy.

If you would like further information about any of these subjects please ask a member of staff.

Observations and Developmental Records

Your child's Key Person will be responsible for completing observations on your child and keeping developmental records. These records will be shared with you and are available for you to see at any time. Observations and developmental records help staff to monitor your child's progress and ensure that the activities that we are providing meet their individual needs and help them to progress. Our aim is to create a complete cycle. From on-going observation of the children we are able to plan for their needs and preferences and to record their progress as we do so.



The EYFS progress check at 2

In addition to our own record keeping system we are also required to provide you with a written summary of your child's development between the ages of 24 months – 36 months. This progress check will detail your child's development in three prime areas which are:

- Physical
- Communication and Language
- Personal Social and Emotional

We will also share with you how we are helping to promote your child's development.

This document can then be shared with your health visitor to help give them a full picture of your child's progress when they carry out your child's Healthy Child Developmental Review.

Managing Children's Behaviour

Managing children's behaviour can sometimes be a challenging task for both parents and staff members. Our behaviour management policy is based on giving children lots of praise and encouragement for positive behaviour and, as far as possible, ignoring or reducing the amount of attention a child receives for negative or unacceptable behaviour. We believe that it is extremely important to work in partnership with parents and to decide on a joint approach, which is appropriate to the child's age and stage of development. A consistent approach is the key to the successful management of children's behaviour.

At times of change a child's behaviour pattern may change and their development may regress slightly.

This is normal but it is extremely helpful to us if you keep us informed about any changes to your child's home life/routine and we will let you know of any changes in the nursery. This will mean that we are able to monitor the child and give them extra support if needed.

What Your Child Needs at Nursery

In hot weather please can you ensure that you leave a sunhat for use in the garden. We will provide sunscreen and ensure that your child is well protected from the sun. In the winter months please provide a warm coat, hat, gloves and Wellington boots. Please bring a change of clothes for your child to nursery each day. This will mean that should their clothes get soiled or wet they are able to change into their own spare clothes. You may wish your child to bring in a comfort item if it helps them to settle.

Naming Children's Clothes

Please ensure that your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name to avoid any loss. Please label all shoes, boots, etc. that are used at nursery. Please do not send your child to nursery in their best clothes. They will take part in messy play and garden activities, and whilst care is taken clothes, can sometimes get messy or marked.

Pegs and Trays

Your child will be given a coat peg and tray to store their items while they are at nursery. A photo of the child will be put on their coat peg, tray and also on their name cards at mealtimes. You can help by encouraging your child to look for their photo. You will be surprised how quickly they come to recognise it as their

own. Please check your child's tray daily for letters, artwork, and occasionally a bag of laundry!

Menus and Mealtimes

Mealtimes are a relaxed and enjoyable experience. Children are encouraged to develop good eating habits, increase their self-help skills and develop socially. We provide a well-balanced, varied and nutritious diet. Menus are displayed in the nursery for your information. Your child's individual dietary needs will be discussed with you and an appropriate menu provided if necessary. Fresh food is prepared and cooked in our on-site kitchens. A nutritious snack is provided in the morning, a main meal at lunchtime and a light tea in the afternoon.

Sleep and Rest

Throughout their time at nursery your child will be given the opportunity to rest and sleep. Your child's individual sleep patterns will be discussed and agreed with you and, as far as possible, met within the daily routine. We recognise that your child will have individual needs when being settled to sleep and would ask you to bring comfort items, such as blankets or toys from home if it helps them to settle. Children sleep in the nursery on comfortable mattresses.

Storage of Buggies and Car Seats

A covered area under the tunnel outside Catherine nursery is provided for you to store your buggy, car seat, etc. Please ask a member of staff to show you where this is.

Nappies, Creams, Wipes, etc.

The nursery provides nappies, creams, wipes, etc., while your child is in our care. Please let us know if your child has any individual needs or allergies to any particular products.

Safe Arrival and Collection of Children

You will be given the code to the nursery door. It is very important for the safety of all children that when you are entering or leaving the building you do not allow anyone in who you do not recognise. Please do not give the code to anyone else. For security reasons the door code will change from time to time and you will be informed of the new number.

On arrival please ensure that you hand your child over to a staff member who will immediately mark their arrival time in the register. On collecting your child please ensure that you inform a member of staff that you are taking your child. To ensure the safe collection of your child you will be required to give written permission as to any person who is authorised to collect them. Staff will not allow children to go with any person who is not authorised to collect them. In the event of an emergency and an authorised person not being available to collect the child, parents must telephone the nursery and inform staff. An identification procedure and a code word will be agreed between the staff member and parent.

Late Collection Policy

The nursery operates a late collection policy. Please ensure that you read and understand this policy fully.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

A copy of our Emergency Evacuation Procedure is displayed in each nursery. Our Fire alarms are checked on a weekly basis. We have regular evacuation practices to ensure that we are able to get the children out of the building quickly and safely. If you should be in the nursery without your child when an evacuation is taking place please proceed directly to the Assembly Point, where you will meet your child. Please do not leave this area until you and your child have been accounted for.

Procedure for Illness

Usually when a child is unwell they gain comfort from being at home with a parent. Therefore if your child is unwell and unable to cope with the nursery day, we will contact you and ask you to collect him/her as soon as possible. In order to prevent the spread of infection in the nursery your child will need to be kept at home if they have an infectious illness. The nursery follows the guidance provided by Public Health England on exclusion periods for infectious illness.

In line with this guidance, and in order to prevent the spread of infection, children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting must not return to nursery until they have been symptom free for a minimum of forty-eight hours. If your child has a slight temperature but is otherwise well, we may contact you and request permission to give them a Paracetamol based suspension, such as Calpol. However, if this temperature persists or goes higher, we would ask you to collect them as soon as possible.

Procedure for Accidents

In the unlikely event that your child has an accident at nursery and requires hospital treatment we will contact you immediately. We will take your child to the hospital and arrange to meet you there. All accidents, however slight, are recorded. You will be shown the accident record and asked to sign to confirm that you have been informed.

Medication Administration

If your child requires medication during the nursery day you will be asked to complete the permission side of a Medication Record Sheet. This form details the medication, the dosage and the times to be given. Staff members will ensure that your child receives the correct dosage of medication at the times stated and complete the administration side of the Medication Record Sheet. All medication is stored safely away from children.

Birthdays and Celebrations

Children enjoy celebrating birthdays and other special events in their lives at nursery. If your child has a birthday, special event or celebration we would love to celebrate this with them. We are happy to provide small cakes for these celebrations. We ask you **not to bring in cakes or sweets**, etc., as we need to ensure that children with allergies are not put at risk.

Changes/Additional Sessions

We will make every effort to accommodate your changing needs regarding your child's attendance at nursery.

One-off additional sessions can be discussed and agreed with the nursery co-ordinator provided that the nursery can accommodate these within their registered numbers and required staff/child ratios.

Any permanent changes to sessions must be requested using the Request for Changes to Sessions Form and are not confirmed until the written agreement is received from Cathy Wakely, the Nursery Admissions Manager.

One month's notice in writing to her is required for any reductions in your sessions. Initial contracts for children new to the day care nurseries are for a 3-month period; therefore a reduction in sessions cannot be agreed until after this time. A minimum of 4 sessions is required. Cathy Wakely's direct line number is **0118 9187653**.

Notice Period

A one calendar month notice period in writing to the Nursery Admissions Manager is required if you wish to withdraw your child from nursery. If this notice is not received you will be charged one month's fees.

Nursery Funding

The Government offer nursery education funding for all 4 year olds and some 3 year olds (up to a maximum of 5 sessions per week). We can apply for this funding on your behalf. You will be asked to complete a form and return it to us once your child becomes eligible. Please ensure that you return this as quickly as possible as you may not receive the funding if we do not get the form returned in time!

Payment of Fees

Invoices for the payment of fees are issued on the last day of the month for the coming month's fees. Information about how to make a payment is included on the invoice.

Fees will vary on a monthly basis depending on the chargeable days in each month. Please ensure any payments made are marked with your child's name. The nursery is registered with all of the companies providing childcare vouchers. If you have any queries about the payment of nursery fees, please call our accounts department on 01189 471847

Want to find out more? Listed below are some useful websites

www.education.gov.uk – The Department for Education

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk> – A site to support professionals working with children and families in the foundation years. Information on the EYFS

www.fisfrcuk.com – The Family Resource Centre (formerly The Children's Information Centre)

www.ican.org.uk/parents - A children's communication charity, which offers a range of resources and literature to help you support your child's language development.

www.niace.org.uk – Information available on pre reading, writing and maths. "Read with me" is a publication we would recommend.

CATERPILLERS NURSERY ROUTINE

The times of this daily routine are flexible and may change in line with the children's needs. The garden area is used as much as possible. In bad weather activities are transferred inside and in good weather activities are transferred outside. Nappy changing and toileting are carried out throughout the day as and when needed.

7:45am – 8:00am	Staff set up the nurseries with a range of activities ready for the arrival of the children.
8:00am – 9:30am	Children arrive and are welcomed into the nursery by staff. They have the opportunity to participate in a range of free play activities that promote all areas of development.
9:30am – 10:00am	Snack-time – children sit in groups with a staff member for snack-time. Social and self-help skills are encouraged.
10:00am – 10:15am	Welcome groups – children are welcomed as a group and discuss with staff members the activities that are on offer that day.
10:15am – 11.45am	A range of activities are provided both inside and out which promote all areas of learning and development. These include a selection of planned adult-led activities and child-led self choice activities, which are supported by the adults. Small key groups will also take place during the morning. Drinks and snacks are available for children to help themselves to as and when they please.
11:40am – 12:00pm	Children are encouraged to prepare for lunch by using the bathroom and hand washing. Self-help skills are encouraged. A group with singing and stories also takes place at this time.
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunchtime – children have lunch with staff members. Social and self-help skills are encouraged.
1:00pm – 2.30pm	Sleep and Rest – children requiring sleep are settled to sleep according to their individual needs. As and when they wake up they join the main group. Children who do not require a sleep take part in quiet activities both indoors and out.

2.00 – 3:45pm	A range of activities are provided both inside and out which promote all areas of learning and development. These include a selection of planned adult-led activities and child-led self choice activities, which are supported by the adults. Small key groups will also take place during the morning. Drinks and snacks are available for children to help themselves to as and when they please.
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Children are encouraged to prepare for tea by helping to tidy up, using the bathroom and hand washing. Self-help skills are encouraged.
4:00pm – 4:45pm	Children have tea in small groups. Social and self-help skills are encouraged.
4:45pm – 6:00pm	Children have the opportunity to participate in a range of free play activities inside or out.