



Welcome to
Forest Bears
Pre-School

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born.

The care and education offered by Forest Bears Pre-School helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are right for their age and stage of development.

Staff

We have a highly qualified, experienced and enthusiastic team of staff, who are committed to providing the best possible care for your child. All staff are highly trained and are constantly updating their knowledge.

Wendy Garforth	Early Years Manager Senco Co-ordinator
Karen Fell	Early Years Deputy Manager Child Protection Officer
Michelle Wells	Early Years Practitioner
Katie Henning	Early Years Practitioner
Claire Rogers	Early Years Practitioner

Forest Community Centre, Pinehill Road
Bordon, Hants, GU35 0BS
07528302108 (school hours only)

Regulated by Ofsted
Registered Charity No. 1029569



What can we offer your child?

We can offer education and care for children from the age of two. We are registered to take 33 children per session. The staff ratio is one adult to four under three year olds. One adult to eight over three year olds.

How can we help your child?

At Forest Bears we pride ourselves on educating by example. We are very proud of the way the children develop their personal and social skills. These are a grounding for life.

“Forest Bears is a friendly and well managed pre-school. It looks after the needs of the children and encourages them all, where possible, in all aspects of their development.”

Leo (parent)



The EYFS sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to the age of 5.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS)

The principles which guide the work of Early Years Practitioners follow four themes.

A Unique Child – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

Enabling Environments – the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development – children develop and learn in different ways and at different times. All areas of learning and development are equally important and are inter-connected.

Who are Ofsted and what do they do?

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) is the governing body who set the standards for care and education for all children's day care settings including schools and nurseries. The outcome of our last inspection in was "Good".

For information on Ofsted and to view our last inspection report visit their website www.ofsted.gov.uk



The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

The Characteristics of effective Learning and the prime specific areas of Learning and development are all interconnected.

The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment - playing and exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically - underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner

The **Prime** areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences, and run through and support learning in all other areas. The prime areas continue to be fundamental throughout the EYFS.



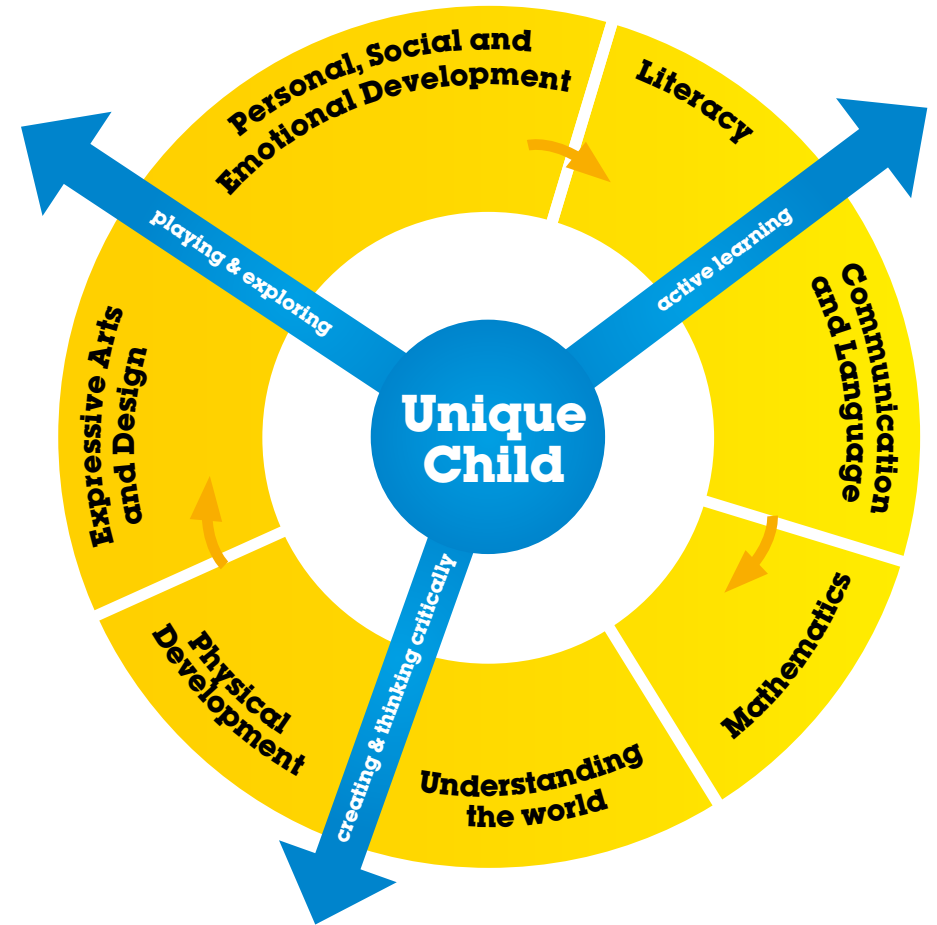
The **specific** areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas, and provide important contexts for learning.

The Unique Child reaches out to relate to people and things through the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**, which move through all areas of learning.

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

Children develop in the context of relationships and the environment around them.

This is unique to each family and reflects individual communities and cultures.



Prime areas are fundamental, work together, and are move through to support development in all other areas.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific areas are include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

“Our son loves going to ‘Forest Bears’. He has learnt so much already and enjoys telling everyone about all the fun things he has done”

Claire (parent)



Outdoor Play

The outdoor environment is very important for your child’s learning and development. The children will have free flow access to the garden throughout the session. They will get dirty and they will experience the odd bump and graze this is a normal part of outdoor play. Adventurous play supports turn and risk taking.

The role of the Key Person

Whilst your child is with us it is important that we meet their individual needs. Each child is assigned a Key Person at the settling in stage. Each key worker will be responsible for a number of children.

It is their role to share information with you about your child and to ensure that your child’s individual needs are being met. They will observe your child in order to be able to plan for your child’s learning and development and make assessment on their progress. These observations will be in the child’s learning journal and parents are encouraged to contribute to them.



“I love playing inside and outside!”

Luke, age 4



The role of the Key Person

Whilst your child is with us it is important that we meet their individual needs. Each child is assigned a Key Person at the settling in stage. Each key worker will be responsible for a number of children. It is their role to share information with you about your child and to ensure that your child's individual needs are being met.

They will observe your child in order to be able to plan for your child's learning and development and make assessment on their progress. These observations will be in the child's learning journal and parents are encouraged to contribute to them.

Planning for your child's learning

Staff will observe their key children and identify their strengths, development needs and interests and build on these. The key person will then use this information to identify areas of learning and to extend the child's learning.

Assessing your child's learning

The key person will be responsible for your child's learning journal. This is an assessment of your child's progress and allows staff to record achievements using the six areas of the EYFS. This helps staff to understand how your child needs to be supported and enables them to share information with you about your child's progress. The key person will share the Learning Journal with you at key person afternoons, they are available to you at other times on request.

“I like going to Forest Bears. I like to play Lego and bricks with my friends”

Mikey, age 3



“We have been so pleased with Forest Bears and feel that our daughter has had such a fantastic start and the best preparation for starting school.”

Sharron (parent)

As childcare professionals, we have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Protection

We have trained staff that are responsible for the implementation of our safeguarding policies and procedures. We are bound by the Local Authority child protection procedures and have a legal duty to discuss with, and obtain advice from the local Social Services Child Protection Team relating to any concerns we may have about a child in our care. In extreme circumstances if we deem a child to be at risk we will contact the local Children's Safeguarding Board to raise our concerns without consulting or seeking permission from the parent.

To ensure our staff are suitable for children they undergo an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check prior to being given unsupervised access to children. In addition to this employment will not commence until we have two suitable written references.

Ensuring your child is secure

All staff, children and visitors must be registered upon arrival at the setting. This is a health and safety and Ofsted requirement.

All visitors to the setting must ring the bell and wait, they are required to sign in and will be accompanied at all times.

Children are only discharged by senior staff. If someone other than the parent is collecting the child this must be by prior arrangement and identification will be requested.



Café

Children are encouraged to pour themselves a drink either milk or water and are offered a selection of fruits, cereal and toast to promote healthy eating. This is a good time for children to engage in social interaction with their peers.

Uniform

Forest Bears have sweatshirts, polo shirts and coats for sale. These are not compulsory but do help to save their "best" clothes. Please note that Forest Bears cannot be held responsible for any damage made to clothing. All clothing, shoes and wellies must be named. School back packs are also available to purchase.

Potty training

We will support you in potty training your child in group. We have information books on our library trolley which you may borrow. A member of staff is always on hand to discuss this further if you wish.

Library trolley

We have a well stocked library trolley containing information books, help books, story books and bilingual books which you may borrow from at any time.

"Forest Bears is very welcoming, with friendly staff. My son really enjoys going to school there."

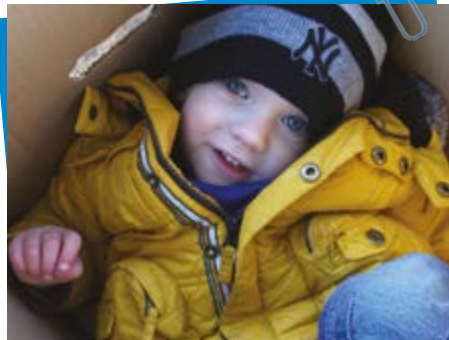
Michelle (Parent)

We Recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents and we realise that parents are the first and most important educators of their young children and we aim to support parents.

Parents are also welcome to:

- Assist with fund raising
- To take part in the management of the preschool
- To attend open meetings of the preschool learning alliance
- To attend training courses and workshops

Let us work together to give your child the finest start in their education and to make their time with us a happy and positive time.



“Forest Bears have helped our shy toddler develop into a confident little girl who is now more than ready to start ‘big school’. We can’t thank Forest Bears enough!”

Rob and Nikki (parents)

For more information please visit www.forestbearspreschool.co.uk



School Times

Forest Bears Pre-School meets in Room 3 in the Forest Community Centre at the following times:

Monday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Tuesday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Wednesday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Thursday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Friday	9.00 – 11.30 am

Lunchtime sessions are available
Monday – Thursday

School Committee

We are a committee run group who meet once a term. New members are always welcome.



.....

Forest Community Centre,
Pinehill Road
Bordon, Hants, GU35 0BS

07528 302 108 (school hours only)

Email: wendyforestbears@bopenworld.com