

*Serendipity's*

OFFERING HIGH QUALITY  
**CHILDCARE**

# WELCOME TO **SERENDIPITYS DAY NURSERY** BALDERTON

**SERENDIPITYS DAY NURSERY** is a converted detached Edwardian town house, situated on London Road in Balderton, Newark.

The nursery has 3 separate rooms for Babies 0-2, Toddlers 2-3 and Pre School 3-5. We have an outside area complete with safety surface where the children play, we also make use of the wider community with walks and trips to local parks and places of interest.

Each room is carefully designed and fully equipped with all the nursery toys and resources to encourage learning and development for every child. We ensure that each day children are supported to make their own little discoveries.

We offer learning approaches which are age-specific and suited to each child's development as well as following Ofsted regulations and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Serendipitys Balderton brings that 'home from home' feel, assisting children to make that transition from home to nursery.

Our caring, nurturing & skillful staff team ensure parents feel confident that their children will be ready to embrace the challenges of full-time education.



As a small nursery, the staff are extremely knowledgeable about each child and their families, making it more personal.

#### Features

- Home from home environment
- Very small setting
- Delicious homemade meals
- Flexible '30 Hour' FREE childcare delivery models
- French Lessons for older children
- Fully equipped outside area
- Private car park to ensure ease for parents at drop off and collection times
- Open 52 weeks (Not on Bank Holidays)
- Monday to Friday 7:15am - 6:00pm
- Purpose built outdoor sand pit and 'mud kitchen' area

We work closely with the local schools to prepare children for their start in full time education.

#### Local Schools:-

- Chuter Ede Primary School
- John Hunt Infant School
- Holy Trinity Catholic Primary & Nursery School
- Barnby Road Primary & Nursery School

We operate 'An Always Welcome policy' so come and have a visit at any time, no appointment necessary.



## ABOUT SERENDIPITYS

Serendipity/Seren'dipiti/noun

*The faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident*

Kelly Alls started in the child-care industry in 1997. Having failed to find the high-quality, affordable childcare she wanted for her own children (all 5 of them!), she decided to register as a Childminder and work from home. Her services were soon in great demand and, armed with a long waiting list, she decided it was time to take the plunge and open her own nursery.

In 1998 the first Serendipitys Day Nursery and Pre-School opened its doors in Bingham, Nottingham, with the ethos of providing the highest quality affordable childcare in a home from home environment.

Serendipitys now operate 5 day nurseries, based in Bingham, Balderton, Newark, Cotgrave and Grantham.

All of the Serendipitys Day Nursery's run with that same ethos and passion as when the first one opened more than 20 years ago.

At each Serendipitys Day Nursery we create a Home from home environment so that all the children feel safe and secure to make their own little discoveries and develop to their full potential.

All nursery staff (regardless of experience or qualification) attend the Serendipitys Training Programme and have to pass a written exam in order to gain employment. The training programme ensures that all staff share the same Serendipitys passion and ethos as Kelly.

## OUR AIMS AT SERENDIPITYS

We aim to offer the best childcare and education possible in a loving home from home environment.

- To provide stimulating activities encouraging learning through play
- To provide the tools for a child to learn and make their own discoveries
- To help prepare children for full time education
- To develop social skills
- To help children become independent, self motivated and confident
- To work in partnership with parents and be flexible for working parents

We promise to care for your child with the same love and support they receive at home, to prepare your child for the years ahead by ensuring they make their own discoveries.

## SETTLING IN AT SERENDIPITYS

Once you have received your confirmation of a nursery place for your child, settling in visits will be arranged at your convenience to ensure a smooth transition into nursery life.

We offer as many visits as necessary for both parents and children to feel happy and secure. We understand how difficult it is leaving your child in someone else's care, so please remember you can call the nursery at any time to check on your child.

During your child's first visit, you will need to complete detailed information forms to ensure that we are aware of individual routines so that we can meet your child's needs.

The Serendipitys loving approach quickly settles even unsure little ones.

## OUR BABY ROOM

At Serendipity's, the emphasis in our baby room is on creating a safe, home from home environment. Our baby room is a warm and cosy haven with a wide selection of toys and resources which support babies' ongoing development. There is space for babies to rest and sleep when they need and lots of toys and resources for them to explore.

Routines in the baby room are tailored to babies' individual needs to ensure that there is consistency and continuity for our youngest children. We know that this is vitally important in helping children to feel secure, so that they can gain the confidence to explore and learn.

At the end of each session, parents are given a daily record completed by their child's key person. This includes information about milk feeds, meals, sleep times, nappy changes, activities and any other relevant information.

## WHAT WE DO IN THE BABY ROOM?

What happens in the baby room is underpinned by what we know about babies' physical needs and their brain development. This influences our interactions, the physical environment and the activities we plan and provide.

Each baby is allocated a key person whose fundamental role is to help babies build a secure attachment and build on babies' growing confidence to help them to begin to develop relationships with other children. They also share information with parents on an ongoing basis so that we keep abreast of children's changing needs.

In our baby room, we encourage early communication through use of signs and symbols, promoting the use of signs through songs and when we say regularly-used words such as 'please' and 'thank-you'. Through our positive interactions, we create a safe and happy environment. We ensure there is plenty of laughter in the knowledge that this supports babies' healthy brain development.

For our youngest children, we provide a calm, peaceful environment through our fixed resources along with a range of stimulating toys and activities which encourage babies to explore and investigate using all of their senses.

Babies enjoy opportunities to see, smell, touch, look and hear different materials as well as tasting different foods. We take them outdoors at least once a day, either in the nursery outdoor area or on outings in the local community, giving them opportunities to explore the local environment and the natural world.



## OUR TODDLER ROOM

In our Toddler Room, we focus on helping children to begin to develop their independence. At meal times, children sit around the table with a member of staff. They are encouraged to begin to use a fork and spoon, to learn table manners and, through discussion about the food they are eating, to begin to develop an understanding of what constitutes a healthy diet. Toddlers also begin to serve their own meals, practising their developing physical skills and also beginning to have some control over what they eat.

We also begin encouraging toilet training. We understand some children take longer than others and this is carefully planned with parents to ensure we are following the child's lead. We encourage children to sit on the potty at nappy changing time to encourage their own inquisitiveness.

After dinner, we have quiet time. Some children sleep during this time. These children all have an individual sleep mat and their own bedding along with any comforters needed from home.

## WHAT WE DO IN THE TODDLER ROOM?

Toddler children all have an allocated key person who shares information with parents on an ongoing basis. This is how we keep abreast of children's changing needs and interests and the key person can then ensure that activities are provided that will capture children's interest.

In Toddler room, our focus is on learning through play. In playing, children learn to interact with others and be part of a community, to experience and manage feelings, and to be in control and confident about themselves and their abilities. Play in the Toddler room is mainly initiated by the children themselves. They can freely choose what they want to play with from a wide selection of toys and resources. Adults provide additional activities which offer new and exciting opportunities for exploration such as wet mud, corn-flour, pasta and gloop. Adults then play with the children and help them to extend their language and follow up their ideas. Children in Toddlers continue to use signs and symbols to support communication.

Some activities, such as wake and shake, story and singing time, are adult-led. These group times are planned to support children's physical development, health and well-being and to encourage skills such as speaking and listening. All these are skills children will need for their future learning.



## OUR PRESCHOOL ROOM

As children settle into Pre-School room, the focus moves towards getting children ready for school. This does NOT mean that we sit and do reading and writing! Our teacher colleagues in the local schools are very clear about what they want children to be able to do when they go to school. This includes things like being able to dress themselves, go to the toilet independently, being confident in knowing nursery rhymes, able to follow simple instructions, share and take turns.

Children learn by exploring, concentrating and thinking, and carefully planned, fun activities, along with our daily routines ensure children gain the skills they need for school and future learning.

Meal times in Pre-School are relaxed social events where staff support them to learn table manners, to use correct cutlery properly, and to develop an understanding of what constitutes a healthy diet so that they develop skills in making healthy choices. Children develop social skills and independence as they serve their own meals and engage in animated conversations with their friends.

Children in Pre-School are encouraged to go to the toilet on their own; with staff supporting where needed. They are encouraged to look after their own personal hygiene by washing their hands and faces and checking their appearance in the mirror whilst in the bathroom.

## WHAT WE DO IN THE PRESCHOOL ROOM?

Your child's key person will continue to share information with you so that we can meet their needs and also so that we can plan activities which support what they are learning and enjoying at home.

In pre-school, in preparation for school, and in line with children's developing ability to concentrate for longer periods, the amount of adult-led activities begins to increase. These activities are carefully planned to be play-based, fun and exciting, so that children are eager to participate and learn.

Some of the routines and adult-led activities in Pre-School are:

- **Self-Registration:** This helps children to recognise their name and also supports their transition from your care into ours.
- **Wake and Shake:** As well as being fantastic fun and getting children in a positive frame of mind, the session supports the development of children's large and fine motor skills which are essential in preparation for sitting still and writing when they start school.
- **Group Times:** These times include discussions, story times, singing sessions, games and French lessons. Group times in Pre-School increase in frequency and variety so that children get used to listening and to speaking in turn.

In Pre-School, children continue to learn through play. Play is mainly initiated by the children themselves; adults provide additional resources which offer new and exciting opportunities for children to explore and investigate. Adults then play with the children and help them to extend their language and follow up their ideas. Learning through play is one of the key principles of Early Years Education, which is supported by a wealth of research – whilst playing, children learn to explore, become motivated and learn to create and think critically.

These skills are essential for children's future learning.

## PARENTS AS PARTNERS

In order to ensure that there is a smooth transition for children between home and nursery, we encourage parents to become involved in all aspects of nursery life. During normal nursery hours, staff are always on hand for parents to talk to and discuss all areas of their children's care and development. We understand that communication can be difficult for working parents and therefore extend opportunities to include out-of-hours events.

## PARENT EVENINGS

All parents attend our termly parent evenings. These evenings provide opportunities for parents and key persons to jointly reflect upon children's progress and identify their next steps in learning. Parents and key persons also share ideas of how children's ongoing progress can be supported through fun activities at home and with their family.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

We organise regular social events for parents. These are wide-ranging and organised in response to parental feedback regarding their needs and wishes. They include sessions within nursery hours, such as grand-parents tea parties; along with evening or week-end activities such as family fun days and community events.

## PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRES

As we are always striving for improvement, we send out termly parental questionnaires to assess parents' level of satisfaction about nursery and to seek ideas for improvement. We would ask that you take a few minutes to complete these when asked, and to be honest in your comments in order to help us continue to improve the experiences for all children who come to nursery.





## PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK

### What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

All nurseries must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and must register with OFSTED. OFSTED undertake inspections of all registered providers, they check that legal requirements are being met and give a grading. Serendipity is currently graded as "Outstanding" or "Good" at all of our nurseries.

### What is the EYFS Framework?

It sets out the legal requirements that we must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare, learning and development.

These include:

- The numbers of staff required in a nursery, what we must do if we have concerns about a child along with things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide what play and activities we plan and provide for your child.

These are:

The 'Prime Areas'

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Your child's key person will work with you make sure we are supporting your child to make the best progress possible and getting them ready for school and preparing them for their future learning and successes.



## BALDERTON NURSERY FEES

Hours	Times	Amount
Half Day	8am - 1pm or 1pm - 6pm	£25.00
Full Day	8am - 6pm	£43.50
Full Week (Full Time Place)	Monday-Friday 8am-6pm	£202.50
One Hour Extra	Additional Hour	£5.00
Early Start	7-8am	£5.00

We are open Monday to Friday for 52 weeks a year, with the exception of all Bank Holidays and the afternoon of Christmas Eve and New Years Eve (if they fall on a weekday).

Fees are due on the 1st of the month in advance. It is the childcare place and not a child's attendance that is charged, fees are calculated over 52 weeks.

A late payment fee of 15% of the outstanding balance will be applied to fees not received by the 7th of the month. Non payment or repeated late payment may affect your child's place.

We do not make any deductions for non attendance due to Bank Holidays, sickness or holidays. However, we do offer an alternative session for Bank Holiday and Festive half day closures 2 weeks either side of the date (subject to availability).

