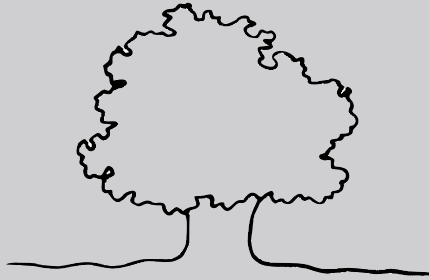


Little Acorns



Montessori



BUCKLER'S PARK, CROWTHORNE

BUCKLER'S PARK COMMUNITY HUB,
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CONTACT:

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BUSINESS MANAGER

WHAT WE DO

At Little Acorns Montessori we are proud of our reputation for our friendly, caring attitude and for the progress our children make without feeling pressured. All Little Acorns children are treated with equal care and respect, and we are dedicated to creating a nurturing, stimulating and welcoming environment for all of our children. This is a full time nursery, which operates from 08:00am - 18:00pm, 48 weeks of the year. We accept all government funded hours, and look to provide childcare which is flexible and affordable. We take children from 24 months old, through to school age.

We are a family run nursery with a wealth of experience across the education sector. We aim to meet the specific needs of the local communities we serve and live in. Little Acorns Montessori was established in 1994 on one site in Winkfield by Val and Michelle, and In 2013, a second site in Bracknell was added. In January 2025 the business was bought by Jonathan, Val's son, who was an Assistant Headteacher at Secondary Schools with a Level 7 Qualification in Educational Leadership. In January 2025 Charlotte was added to the team, who is also a Level 5 qualified secondary teacher with secondary and FE/HE experience in managerial positions. Both of Jonathan and Charlotte's children attend the Bracknell setting (aged 3 and 1) along with Michelle's grandson (aged 2) reflecting the trust and investment we have in our own provision.

OUR LEARNING AND TEACHING AIMS

We aim to provide quality learning experiences for our children, which is structured, balanced, relevant to the child, and related to the real world. We want our children to have positive experiences of success at their own levels now, in order to give them confidence and motivation for learning in the future. We also believe that self directed play is crucial for children's healthy, physical, emotional and social development, and we aim to provide the holistic development of all children through this play. It is also important to us to create a partnership with parents that supports and enhances the development of the children.

OUR LOCATION

Our nursery is operated out of the Buckler' Park Community Center, 'The Hub'. Here's a link to our location if you are reading this electronically:

[Little Acorns on Google Maps](#)

THE SCHOOL DAY

Where we can, we look to be flexible to put a plan together which works for you and your child. You are welcome to 'mix and match' any number of sessions you'd like your child to attend, and they can attend for as little or as much as you'd like. Please bear in mind though that at least two full sessions is best for children to settle in, and when recruiting children we will look to prioritise where there is the most need.

It may not always be possible to give you the hours or sessions you request, as we are bound by staff ratios and session availability. Agreed plans are agreed for at least a full term, and we need a terms notice to make changes to any agreed hours. We will, of course, work with you to try and accommodate any long-term plan changes over the course of the year.

Below is an example of a typical school day

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 8:00 - 9:00 - Breakfast and Freeflow | 13:00 - 14:00 - Focus Time |
| 9:00 - 10:00 - Snack and Phonics (3/4 y/o) | 14:00 - 15:00 - Garden |
| 10:00 - 11:00 - Focus Time | 15:00 - 16:00 - Freeflow/Activities |
| 11:00 - 12:00 - Garden | 16:00 - 17:00 - Snack |
| 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch | 17:00 - 18:00 - Evening Activities |

We are also next to a beautiful park, and back on to Buckler's Forest, weather permitting we also make use of those space with the children throughout the day.

THE EYFS

Little Acorns follows the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which is split into 3 initial prime areas for learning; Communication & Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social & Emotional Development.

These prime areas are essential for children's healthy development and future learning. As the children grow, the prime areas will help them develop skills in 4 specific areas; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts & Design.

If you are reading this electronically, here is a link to the full EYFS statutory framework if you would like to know more about what school-based providers do: [EYFS Framework 2024](#)

PROGRESS TRACKING

Written and/or on-line journals will be kept on each child. Observations are done on a regular basis, and these achievements are then recorded in their "Learning Journal", which is updated regularly. All records will be kept confidential and are available for any parent to see.

A transition document will be completed with parents' co-operation and will be forwarded to the child's next school. These records are kept in accordance with our GDPR policy that we require you to read and accept once your child starts at Little Acorns.

THE MONTESSORI CHILD

Maria Montessori believed that the first six years of a child's life are crucial to their future development. We aim to provide quality care in a Montessori environment that will give your child the freedom to learn in controlled surroundings with materials which are self-correcting.

We are there to guide the child; To present materials and activities as models for imitation but then allow the child to make his/her own discoveries.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage together with elements of the philosophy and practices of Maria Montessori. Children will develop at their own pace and each child's development is closely monitored and the Curriculum is applied accordingly. We also use the Jolly Phonics book and CD to teach the children about sounds, letters and actions.

The Sensorial activities lay the foundations for maths, language and science. Maria Montessori advocated the phonic approach to reading and writing and most children seem able to master the written language by the age of four.

Not only are Montessori mathematics materials stimulating and original, they really do work. Sandpaper numerals and letters enable the children to feel, see and hear what they are doing and from there they will progress easily on to more complicated and thought provoking exercises.

OUR CURRICULUM AIMS

Our aim is to provide a curriculum which takes account of, and responds to our children's' developmental needs. This curriculum provides equal learning and development, and allows children to make progress related to their differing abilities. Our curriculum promotes the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' (EYFS), which sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five; giving opportunities for all the children within the nursery.

THE WIDER CURRICULUM

Our Practical Life activities will enable your child to gain control of their own world. From simple pouring exercises to more complicated tying and threading activities, your child will learn in an uncomplicated pressure free environment. The Sensorial activities lay the foundations for maths, language and science.

The children will also benefit from a Funfit programme, music & movement, singing, cookery and art and they will be encouraged to participate in our gardening activities and play in the mud kitchen.

We hope to develop a moral awareness in our children. Exercises in courtesy, tolerance, trust and respect are all important. Through our calm, firm but patient manner, we will help our children achieve self- discipline and motivation. In addition, our boundaries aim to help children develop respect for the needs of others.

Children will be encouraged and praised in recognition of good behaviour, i.e. sharing and helping others. No humiliating, aggressive or frightening methods will be used; A non- authoritarian approach will be used at all times. A behaviour policy is in place should a problem arise.

FEES AND FUNDING

We accept all funded hours from the government, without obligation from you to commit to a certain amount of sessions. This is something we feel strongly about, and our commitment to our parents means that you won't have to pay a certain amount to join us. If you have only used funded hours, then your bill will be £0.

Any hours used outside of funded hours will be charged to you at £10 an hour.

If you would like to discuss fees, funding or available hours please do contact us using the details on the front of the prospectus. If you would like to come and have a look at what we do during the school day, then you would be more than welcome.

If you would like to start with us, a stay and play session will be available for all new children and parents; we are proud of what we have to offer, and we are looking forward to sharing it with you.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Little Acorns will provide a nutritious snack at break time. Snack times are an opportunity for the children to select their own fruit, vegetables or savoury items. We encourage them to cut their fruit, vegetables and pour their drinks.

Regular inspections of the nursery premises and equipment are made to ensure that they meet fire and safety regulations. The nursery is fully insured; insurance certificates can be inspected in the main entrance of the nursery.

Home visits can help a nursery get to know parents and children before they attend Little Acorns. Information gained is specific to your child and during informal interaction useful knowledge can be gained in privacy. These visits are available if required.

We use the Family App at our nursery to ensure that communications between the nursery and parents is frequent, and that all communications or nursery related information is in one place.

Any accidents that occur in the nursery are recorded on the Family App and parents are asked to acknowledge this on the App. If an incident happens at home, this can also be recorded in an accidents book we keep on site.

Little Acorns is also regularly inspected by Ofsted which ensures that children in our setting are; safe, well cared for, and take part in activities that help them develop and learn.