

Kids at Heart 

The School House Nursery



Under the management of

Julie Shaw
Proprietor

Head Office: Percy Field, Low Moor Lane, Lingerfield, Knaresborough, HG5 9JB

Website: www.kidsatheart.co.uk

Children are happy to arrive at this welcoming nursery. They immediately show they feel safe and secure and settle quickly. (Ofsted 2023)

The management team provides a well-thought-out and welcoming environment. (Ofsted 2023)

Vision Statement

At Kids at Heart LTD, we strive to offer a healthy, happy, stimulating home from home setting for the children within our care. Together with a shared goal between practitioners and parents, we aim for all children to have a strong sense of belonging.

Our nursery is built on understanding, values and respect for others, our ethos of fresh air, exercise and a healthy lifestyle also underpins our daily practice. We work hard with our passionate team to create an environment full of diverse opportunities to instil a love of learning, and establish confident capable learners full of awe and wonder.

It is always our commitment to provide the highest standard of childcare, whilst ensuring learning and development opportunities, to capture your child's needs, interests and imagination.

With communication at the centre of our practice, our intention is to enable all children to be confident communicators supporting each child to be life ready.

Over the years, you will see your child develop from a baby into a confident pre-schooler and beyond. They will master lots of physical and cognitive skills, as well as growing up as part of a loving, caring, sharing group. This is achieved through curiosity, asking questions, and trying things out as they explore the world around them.

Your child will enjoy a welcoming, vibrant, and stimulating environment at this nursery, where individual needs are recognised and nurtured. We are committed to promoting equality and celebrating diversity, supporting all children and families to participate in a healthy state of mind and body.

The friendly, supportive environment is conducive to learning safely, encouraging children to be independent, confident, and ready to fulfil their individual interests and developmental needs.

We place great emphasis on your child's personal, social, and emotional developmental. By the time your child reaches pre-school, they will be an increasingly independent person with their own positive personality and high self-esteem. Within this well supported environment, we feel it is also beneficial to demonstrate to each child, the value of taking turns, sharing, being part of a group and caring for each other.

All our childcare and development is monitored, reflected and evaluated to ensure continuous improvement. This is underpinned by strong partnerships with parents, the local community, and other settings your child may attend or will move on to, in order to provide continuity for them.

Children know what is expected of them and follow the boundaries and routines of the setting well. They enjoy playing alongside each other and understand the importance of sharing and taking turns. (Ofsted 2023)

Staff

Our practitioners working with your child are carefully chosen to ensure that they are able to develop positive, lasting relationships that children will remember. Your child will have a Key Person who will work closely with your family to ensure they know your child well and understand their needs, giving them a sense of belonging. They will build a familiar, affectionate and trusting relationship you can rely upon – but at the same time, be good role models for fun, friendship, caring, education and positive behaviour!

Staff act as positive role models and encourage children to be kind. They speak to children in a calming manner, and carefully consider and respect children's views and opinions. (Ofsted 2023)

Rigorous interviewing and safeguarding checks are in place to ensure enthusiastic, committed and dedicated staff provide the highest standards of care and learning.

The setting is managed by Jackie Slinger and supported by myself, Julie Shaw, who has a BA Hons in Childhood Studies and Early Years Professional Status along with Hannah Richardson who is the Area Manager who has a BA Hons in Young Children's Learning and Development. All staff are either qualified to Level 2 or 3 in Early Years Care and Education, or are working towards qualifications on site through an external training provider. We encourage and support staff on-going training, but as a minimum, all staff will undertake:

- Child protection / Safeguarding training
- Paediatric first aid training
- Prevent Duty – Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team and staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding and child protection issues. Managers keep up to date with local and national safeguarding priorities. They can identify the signs and symptoms which may indicate that a child is at risk of harm. (Ofsted 2023)

The environment is safe and secure and risk assessments are effective in minimising risks to children at the nursery. Staff closely supervise children to promote their welfare. (Ofsted 2023)

Rooms/Outdoors

Our nursery is welcoming, light and airy, set in a peaceful, rural setting, allowing your child to actively enjoy indoor and outdoor activities all year round. There are 3 rooms from babies through to pre-school, and each room offers your child well-equipped facilities to encourage enjoyable experiences and challenges, both indoors and out.

The Baby room has its own outdoor patio area attached to the room which enables your baby to explore new toys and interact with other children/adults, or sleep in the fresh air outdoors in a secure environment. Indoors there is also a sleep room / changing room. We strive to work closely alongside parents to ensure we are following your routines for feeding/sleeping patterns and any other special requirements you and your baby may have, to help them to settle in quickly and support their learning experiences.



Staff know children extremely well and develop strong bonds with them. They are readily available to offer children friendly support and warm cuddles throughout the day. This contributes to children's confidence and security. (Ofsted 2023)

The Play Room has a lovely room with space for imaginative, constructive and musical play. As your child continues to explore and develop their all-round abilities in different areas of learning, there are a wide variety of toys and resources to stimulate and support them. They also have the outdoor play area which allows your toddler the freedom to explore in the safety of the garden, while still allowing them to see their younger friends.



All children show positive attitudes and are well prepared for their next stage in learning. Staff follow children's interests and have a clear understanding of what they intend children to learn. Children have access to a variety of learning experiences, which inspire their creative play. (Ofsted 2023)

The Pre-School Room is fully equipped for the transition between toddler and pre-schooler. Your child is free to choose from the wide range of easily accessible toys and resources which help develop, stimulate, and support them as they become increasingly independent. There are opportunities to be creative, use ICT, construction toys, imaginative and musical play as well as sand and water activities. All of this, of course, in comfortable relaxed child friendly surroundings.



Children are encouraged to be independent from a young age. Staff encourage children to put on their own coats and manage their own coat zips. Children wash their hands independently and pour their own water and milk at lunchtime. Children are supported to make choices as they learn during their play. For example, they independently select from the well-resourced environment. (Ofsted 2023)

There are also the rich learning opportunities in the garden which has different areas of grass, paving and messy play sections. Your child can access these each day as they are supported to take risks and explore in challenging, playful opportunities. Alternatively, they can also enjoy the tranquillity as they sit outside and look at books or dig in our vegetable plot.



Food – Healthy lifestyle – Chef

A healthy lifestyle is firmly established within the nursery, which involves teaching your child about self-care, making informed decisions and understanding the fundamentals to managing their own health. Our vision of this is to positively promote exercise through physical play as well as great care being taken by our in-house Chef to provide nutritious, well balanced meals each day. Your child will be offered breakfast (depending on the time of your arrival) a choice of healthy mid morning snacks, milk or water and a hot meal at midday. Tea is served from 3.30pm onwards and water is available at all times throughout the day. Babies' meals are adapted and individual diets are catered for. Our menus are seasonal and copies of menus are available for parents to see. We are committed to helping to combat tooth decay in all children so this means that our meals, snacks and drinks are carefully chosen to ensure that they do not contain hidden sugar (where possible). Desserts are served to your child amongst other options, however, fruit is always available as another healthy option. Brown rice and wholemeal pasta is used when possible.



Staff support children to learn about the importance of being healthy, including their oral health. Children enjoy freshly prepared hot-cooked meals and healthy snacks each day. (Ofsted 2023)

The Early Years Foundation Stage – Principles into Practice

A well-balanced Early Years Foundation Stage framework ensures that all the areas of learning and development are incorporated based on the 4 themes. These four **Themes** express important **Principles** underpinning effective practice in the care, development and learning of young children. Each **Principle** is supported by four **Commitments** which describe how the principle can be put into practice. The four Principles are:

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 rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.” (Early Years Foundation Stage framework - Principles into Practice)

Together we would like to ensure your child is supported to reach their full potential – indoors and outdoors. Putting all of the above principles into practice

Each stage of your child's development is recorded and used to plan for their next steps. Photographs and observations are recorded on Tapestry which is an online learning journal which helps nurseries and parents record, track and celebrate children's progress in their Early Years education. On Track assessments will be available for you to pass on to school. This link with the school also helps to ensure a smooth transition for your child from Pre-school.

Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported well by staff. Staff identify gaps in children's development at an early stage and act promptly to address them. (Ofsted 2023)

Settling In

How can we work together to help your child with settling in and transitions?

It is our aim to ensure all children are given the opportunity to settle into Kids at Heart in their own time to accommodate for their individual needs. We work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage a positive start in this new environment.

Approximately one month before your child starts nursery, arrangements will be made for some free settling in sessions so that your child can familiarise him/herself with the nursery, the staff and the children.

The amount of introductory sessions needed will differ to accommodate the individual needs to the child and cater for parents attachment needs.

During the first few settling in sessions, parents / carers may stay until their child feels settled and are comfortable leaving.

Upon starting nursery, your child will be allocated a key person with whom they will form a strong bond / attachment and this will help them feel safe and secure while at nursery.

The Role of a Key Person

Children need to build strong relationships with their carers, this allows them to feel secure, explore their environment and take risks with confidence knowing that a trusted adult is nearby to support their learning, present new challenges in a safe environment, and offer praise and encouragement which will build confidence and self esteem.

A Key Person is chosen to both match your child's attendance pattern to provide continuity of care and development but is also dependant on a natural bond that your child develops with a particular member of staff. They will be very interested in your child's likes / dislikes, routines, and family life so that they can plan learning opportunities to cater for his / her individual needs and then add photographs, observations and personal achievements into his / her online Learning Journal.

Parents speak highly of the nursery. They say that their children love attending and arrive happy and smiling. Staff share information with parents about their children's learning experiences through daily conversations. (Ofsted 2023)

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is an easy-to-use online learning journal which helps nurseries and parents to record, track and celebrate children's progress in their early years education.

Our nursery is fun packed with many different educational play activities from mud kitchens, willow dens, story sacks to creative work. Each child will have their own unique online learning journal within this software package, allowing us to capture and share these experiences as well as monitor development and learning.

This software package is a safe and secure application with its own web address specifically for The School House Nursery, Kids at Heart.

Unique access codes for each individual child will be provided to allow you to view your child's progress online as it is recorded.

This will allow you to view photos and observations, as well as comment and give personal feedback on your child's development and activities throughout the day, helping to build on the home/nursery link.

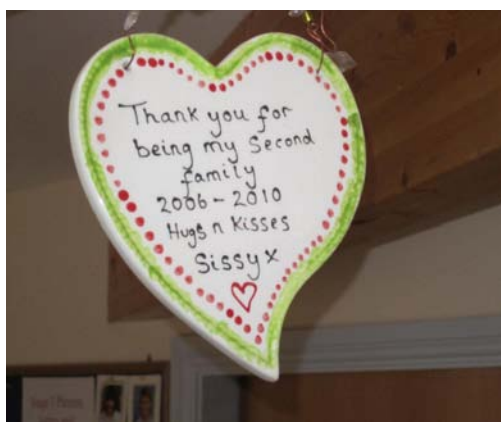
The children concentrate on the Prime and Specific areas of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage Framework) and are observed on the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which shows how a child engages with other people and their environment.

It's always sad when the time comes to say goodbye to children as they leave to go to school – but we consider it a privilege to be part of their early years, to see them develop and grow into great little people. We hope they will come back to see us, even if it is just to pop in to say hello and let us know how they're doing. Please feel free to do the same – visitors always welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to read about our nursery. We hope to welcome you and your family to visit us soon.

Julie Shaw
General Manager

Jackie Slinger
Nursery Manager



Frequently asked questions:

How long has Kids at Heart been established?

The School House Nursery in Pannal has been operating since 1995 and our nursery in Knaresborough has been operating since 1994. Our Kids Club in Harrogate also opened in 1994.

Are you Ofsted registered and what does this mean?

All our settings are registered separately as required by Ofsted. The purpose of the Ofsted inspection is to identify strengths and weaknesses so that we, as providers, can improve the quality of educational provision and help children achieve the Early Learning Goals for children's learning on entering compulsory education. It is also to assure parents and the public that the nursery education funded by the Government is of an acceptable quality.

Do you offer places with a funded entitlement?

Yes, we offer places with a funded entitlement. (these are subject to availability) We offer up to 30 hours of funding per week, providing the relevant criteria (where applicable) is met.

To check the criteria, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you have any queries regarding funding, please email us at pannal@kidsatheart.co.uk or call us to discuss your requirements.

What times do sessions run?

The School House Nursery is open from 8 am to 6pm for all day sessions.

Morning sessions are 8am-1pm and afternoon sessions are 1pm-6pm.

Is the nursery open throughout the year?

The nursery is open 51 weeks of the year. We are closed for the week between Xmas and New Year, Public Holidays, and weekends

Can I book extra sessions if I need more care?

Yes, we will do our best to provide extra sessions, subject to availability.

How many children and carers are in each room?

Each room is different and following Ofsted guidelines, the numbers of children are determined by the floor space and the age of the children. The number of carers will be determined by the amount and age of children. Our minimum staff:child ratios requirements are as follows:

0-2 years 1:3

2-3 years 1:4

3-5 years 1:8

Where there are children with additional needs, staff to child ratios will be increased to appropriately meet the particular needs of these children. In calculating ratios of staff to children, students on placement will not be counted although they may be involved as occasional helpers within the group as part of their training.

Will my child have the same Nursery Practitioners each session?

Each room has a team of Practitioners working together. The teams are carefully put together to ensure a diverse range of qualifications, experience and personalities. Key Persons within the team are appropriately matched to the children with regard to days they both attend

How are staff selected/screened/trained?

Rigorous interviewing and robust safeguarding checks made through the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) are carried out for each new member of staff. 4 members of the head office management team have all completed a course in 'Safer Recruitment' to ensure measures are met relating to child protection and the screening at recruitment and job offer stage.

All staff are qualified or working towards a childcare qualification as well as on-going internal and external short courses. All staff work under the guidelines of written policies and procedures to ensure consistency, high quality and safety standards. Policies and Procedure manuals are available for inspection in reception at any time. Our policies and procedures are reviewed annually and are updated more regularly if required. Staff are given such policies on a monthly basis to ensure they are kept up to date with any changes.

Are all staff qualified and/or experienced?

All staff are qualified, or working towards a qualification, in childcare. Staff are also trained in Child Protection, Paediatric First Aid and Prevent as a minimum. We strongly encourage and support all staff training and have staff trained from NVQ/Diploma level 2 in Early Years Childcare and Education, up to post graduate Early Years Professional status.

Do you update me on my child's progress?

Observations and assessments are carried out on your child on a regular basis to ensure that they are working towards, meeting or exceeding the Early Learning Goals. These observations provide the next steps in our planning for your child's development. Our online learning journal (Tapestry) enables us to track and celebrate children's progress in their Early Years education. Parents are also able to view, like and comment on observations as they are added to their individual online child's journal.

How often do the children go outside?

Every day – whenever possible. We believe strongly in a healthy lifestyle which includes fresh air and exercise, and that includes babies through to Pre-School. We ask you to bring wellies, warm waterproof coats, hats and gloves – although we also have a selection of waterproofs, wellies and sun hats available. Curiosity is a key disposition for learning that we want to foster in young children. Within our secure garden environment, curious children, from a very early age, explore the world around them through touching, smelling, listening and looking. Through asking questions and trying things out, children make sense their world and develop their skills as independent learners. We aim to provide them with opportunities to find out about themselves, significant people in their lives, their immediate environment and the natural and man-made world.

What's included in the fees?

Nursery care, breakfast (depending on the time of arrival) meals (2-course hot lunch and tea) and snacks and drinks.

For children with a funded entitlement, additional services such as non funded hours, and consumables such as breakfast, snacks, lunch, high tea, drinks, admin, baby wipes, forest school type activities, peripatetic sessions (such as music, sports, dance sessions) waterproofs, wellies, baking equipment, ingredients etc (this is not an exhaustive list) are a chargeable cost. Details of these fees are communicated to parents prior to each term.

What else do I need to bring?

You will need to provide nappies and formula milk (where applicable) Please also ensure your child has an appropriate coat. We provide spare clothes, wellies and sun hats, however, if you would prefer to use your own, please feel free to bring those too.

Do the children come in for an introductory session before they start?

A member of the management team will contact you to arrange introductory sessions before your child's start date. This will give you and your child the opportunity to come into the nursery before your start date to familiarise yourselves with the Practitioners and the new environment and it will also allow you to sit down with your child's Key Person to go through to share information about your child's developmental stage, routine, personality, likes, dislikes, allergies, medication etc. that may require a care plan.

What happens if my child needs to sleep during the day?

Each room has sleeping arrangements and we will follow your routine as closely as possible. The babies and younger children have sleeping areas within their rooms, the older children join the toddlers in their quiet room for a chance to recharge their batteries.

What's the menu like?

The menus are carefully drawn up to ensure nutritious, well balanced meals which the children will enjoy. The menus are seasonal to ensure as much fresh produce as possible. Babies' meals are adapted from the main menu and individual diets are catered for wherever possible. We want to help to combat tooth decay in all children and endeavour to avoid hidden sugars in food and drinks where possible. Although we have delicious home cooked desserts as a treat, there is always yoghurt and fruit healthy options available.

Help with fees?

Many families are entitled to help with nursery fees. For more information have a look at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. You may be entitled to access help with childcare costs through Employer Supported Childcare, Childcare Vouchers, or Universal Credit. We are also registered with Tax Free Childcare which is open to all qualifying parents. The criteria for this can be found at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

How do I know what my child has been doing?

Babies and toddlers who attend will be given a written daily report sheet detailing sleep, feed times and nappy changes; reports for Pre-School will be verbal. Staff from your child's room will be available at the beginning and end of each session to tell you about your child's day. Each child will have their own unique online learning journal within the 'Tapestry' software package that we use, allowing us to capture and share your child's experiences as well as monitor development and learning.

Monthly newsletters are sent out by email giving details of what's happening in nursery and what's coming up. These are also available to collect from nursery. Parents' are invited to come into nursery to enable you to discuss your child's progress with their Key Person. However, senior staff are available on a daily basis, or an appointment can be made for a more comprehensive discussion.

We believe that an open access policy is the best way of encouraging participation with parents. Parents are welcome to view the policies and procedures file at any time. They are also welcome to see the records kept on their child, but as this would require withdrawing a member of staff from their usual duties, arrangements should be made in advance to ensure staff availability. We welcome the opportunity to share your child's learning with you.

What's Next?

Step 1

Contact us to discuss your requirements and we will check our availability.
You can call us 01423 873 619 or email us pannal@kidsatheart.co.uk

Step 2

Visit the nursery to have a look around and meet the staff.

**The School House Nursery
The Green, Pannal
Harrogate
HG3 1LH**

Step 3

Complete an application form and pay the registration fee and fees in advance that are required to secure the place.

Return the required starter paperwork for processing.

All starter paperwork must be returned before your child's first settling in session.