Hello and welcome

The first Little People Nursery was established in 1989 by the owner/proprietor Marguerite Hallas and her husband Geoff. Marguerite, who has been a Nursery Nurse since she was 16, had always dreamed of opening her own nursery. Geoff originally trained in accountancy giving him the business knowledge needed to help Marguerite make her dream a reality.

The family were passionate about childcare and in 1992 welcomed daughter, Vicky, to the team. Vicky worked at the Nursery whilst completing her studies, both in Childcare and also Accounts and Finance, and also holds Early Years Professional Status.

In 2004, their son Chris joined the team. Chris can be found working at Head Office dealing with Customer Accounts, Health & Safety and Payroll. Chris is qualified in Business Administration, IHOS Qualification in Health and Safety, and Accountancy.

Over 25 years later the Nurseries are still run hands on by the Hallas family, along side long standing Area Manager, Tracy Windle, who has been a part of the team from the very beginning. With a dynamic and dedicated Leadership team, and our wonderful Managers who together have clocked up over 50 years’ experience with us, we believe we can offer your Little Person a wonderful start in life.
Why Choose Little People Day Nursery?

- Research has shown that children who attend nursery are more prepared, confident and have increased social skills for starting school.
- Your child will develop alongside their peers, with an environment and activities that are specifically designed to meet their needs and individual stage of development.
- We have a well-researched Settling In Procedure with the happiness of your child being paramount.
- We are open from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year. We only close on Bank Holiday Mondays and the week between Christmas and New Year.
- We have an internal intercom to allow you to telephone and speak directly to your child’s key person in your child’s room.
- We offer a variety of sessions, half days, an hourly rate and a ‘variable’ day place so you can select the care you need.
- No hidden costs. Meals and nappies are included.
- We are independently inspected by Ofsted and the Food Standards Agency, achieving excellent feedback from both authorities.
- We have a professional open partnership between our staff and our parents meaning any concerns can be voiced without awkwardness, we welcome feedback and are dedicated to meeting parents’ needs.
- Our Company Recruitment and Induction Process has been commended by Ofsted. Our staff have been thoroughly vetted and staff are continuously trained and observed by colleagues and management.
- Our Management Team have generations of experience and commitment to the Childcare industry and are passionate about the care we provide.
- Our staff retention rate is high, the majority of our staff team have worked with us for between 4 and 25 years, as a small group we do not need agency or temporary staff, all of our staff hold full contracts with us.

“The management team are highly focused on driving quality in all aspects of the nursery. A strong drive for improvement and the evident embracing of quality from staff demonstrates that they are fully committed to providing the best possible start for children in their early years.”

Ofsted 2013
Little People Heckmondwike

This purpose built Nursery combines a homely atmosphere with a feeling of space and light. The large and colourful playrooms have a modern feel with the children being cared for in peer groups with easy access to the outside play area.

Parents are welcome to use the additional facilities in the extensive reception area in which we have our Library Area. The staff team make use of this special area throughout the day with small groups of children. You are invited to use books from the Nursery Library to share with your child at home, or spend time in the Library at nursery when you collect your child.

Set in its own grounds the nursery is all on one level for the childcare facilities, many of the rooms have direct access to the outdoor area, which has been developed to allow easy access for every age range.

The nursery is ideally situated close to the centre of Heckmondwike providing easy access to the local amenities for the children to experience on trips out of the setting, and allowing for collections and drop offs to local schools.

When your child starts full time school we also offer out-of-school care for children at neighbouring schools, Holy Spirit and Heckmondwike Primary Schools.

Manager:
Melissa Kennelly

How to find us:
Goose Hill
Off Cemetery Road
Heckmondwike
WF16 9EE

Call: 01924 509883

Accessibility:

- Bately Station (2.3 miles)
- Cemetery Road (177 feet)
- Disabled Access Ramp

We also have nurseries at:
Farfield, Bramley, Alwoodley and Stanningley
You and Your Key Person working together

Each child is designated a Key Practitioner, this is their special carer. Your Key Practitioner will work closely with you to ensure they have a sound knowledge of your child’s character, capabilities and interests and spend time with them engaging in quality experiences which will support learning and development in a holistic way.

They will form the strongest bond with you and your child and will usually be the person who you hand your child to on a morning, and the person that you speak to about your child’s day and development. It is important that this partnership is two-way and we encourage you to share information with your child’s key practitioner. We ask you to share any concerns, family changes or changes to your child’s routine with them and they will be happy to support you through any changes.

Your child’s key practitioner will also arrange more formal occasions to share with you information regarding your child’s development. This may be in the form of Parents’ Evenings, or Profile Evenings where you are invited to look through your child’s profile of learning. We also issue reports annually, which cover the old 2 year old Health Visitor check, and a comprehensive Summative Report for your child’s new teacher when they start Big School. You will be given a copy of these and are encouraged to include comments. Please do not wait for an invitation to discuss things with us if you have any concerns - your child’s profile is available to view at any time, and meetings can be arranged whenever you like.

Library Service

You are invited to make use of our free library service and borrow books from our library at your leisure. Many of the books will be familiar to your child and they will enjoy the link between home and nursery as you share these with them at bedtime. We have a huge selection of books to suit all ages, these are enhanced in the Nursery setting with puppets and props to bring the stories to life. We also ensure that many books tackle the big issues that families may face during your child’s early years such as a hospital visit, house move, starting school, a new sibling or losing a loved one. Please make use of this facility and share any requests with our Nursery Manager.

“The nursery is wonderful and the staff team are really friendly and approachable. Darcy has settled really quickly due to the warm and welcoming atmosphere.”

Darcy’s Mum 2014 (Stanningley Parent)
Meals, Nutrition and Healthy Eating

All meals whilst your child is in attendance are included in our prices. We employ a dedicated Nursery Cook who is trained in Nutrition and qualified in Food Hygiene and source ingredients from our local butcher and greengrocer. We are very proud to hold a 5 star rating with the Food Standard Agency. Our menus are healthy and delicious, usually on a 3-weekly basis. Our cook regularly reviews the menu to take into account seasonal changes and children’s preferences. We will frequently add in culturally different meals to match the families that we have in the setting, and we welcome your input with this. Research shows that children benefit from 5 portions of fruit or vegetable per day, so this is worked into our meal and snack menu. Children enjoy breakfast between 7.30am-8.45am, a freshly prepared 2-course hot lunch at 11.30 and a 2-course Afternoon Tea at 3.30pm. We also provide mid-morning and mid-afternoon healthy snacks.

Feeding and Weaning

We ask that you supply your preferred milk for your baby. Please do not pre-make your babies bottles as they can harbour bacteria, just bring along the bottles your baby prefers and the formula milk and we will prepare each feed as and when required. Breast milk does not harbour bacteria so you can express and bring the bottles pre-prepared, or even frozen, if you wish. Your Key Practitioner will work alongside you as your baby is weaned, introducing a range of foods in accordance with current weaning guidance, prepared by our cook. We follow best practise guidance by avoiding pre-prepared baby jars and packets.

Tooth Brushing and Oral Hygiene

Dentists recommend tooth brushing after meals, and we encourage this at Little People. Please bring along a toothbrush and toothpaste which your child can keep at Nursery in their own pot, the children enjoy brushing along to the ‘brushing song’ with their friends. Our Healthy Eating Policy also follows guidance in Healthy Drinks and children are a choice of milk or water at snack and meal times, and fruit juice is on offer with Breakfast. We work closely with our local Children’s Centre who can help families who are unable to provide tooth cleaning products due to financial hardship.

Children make good progress because practitioners understand their needs and work closely with other agencies to ensure these needs are well met... The manager and her staff skilfully support children’s transitions both within the setting and to other settings and schools.”

Ofsted 2013 (Farfield Setting)
Frequently asked questions

How do I settle my child in to Nursery?
The first contact with your child’s Key Person is an optional home visit. We have found that children are much more receptive to strangers in the comfort of their own home, and your child’s key person will spend 10 minutes or so playing with them to start creating that special bond. You will have the opportunity to share more information about your child so they can get a better picture of your family and your child’s needs, and ask any questions you have. This is in no way an assessment of your child, or your home, but is highly acknowledged as a valuable way of settling in. We will take a photograph of them, and ask you to bring along family photographs so that we can create a “Look Book” for your child to enjoy at Nursery.

We ask you to complete a booklet with further information about your child, their likes and dislikes. You bring this along to their first visit at Nursery and share this with your Key Person, they will help you complete it if you like. There are 3 hours of visits including in your booking fee, you can split these however you wish. You know your child the best and will probably have already thought about how they will find the transition. If you would like to book them extra visits prior to starting you can pay for these on the hourly rate.

What does my child wear for Nursery?
You will need to bring a bag (no plastic carriers please!) to Nursery with a change of play clothes for your child. Please remember your child will be taking part in lots of messy play at Nursery, such as paint and slime. Outdoors they will jump in puddles and dig in the garden. Please ensure you send your child to Nursery in clothing that is appropriate for this and not their best outfits! Look out for posters to tell you when the Nursery photographer is coming for them to arrive in their best bib and tucker!

We ask that you provide your child with pumps, slippers, or alternative shoes to wear indoors. Our children spend lots of time playing on the floor on rugs and cushions and we like to keep these as clean possible. Alternatively you could bring some wellies for your child to change into when playing outside.

Some parents like to have “Nursery Clothes”, so that there is no discussion on a morning regarding outfits. We also have a full range of embroidered Nursery Uniform, including named bags. Uniform is useful either as a method of preparing your child for further education, or simply for the convenience of knowing what to wear each day. They also promote a sense of belonging and are particularly popular with children in Schoolroom, although they are entirely optional. Please visit our website for details.

Do I need to bring anything else to Nursery?
All food, nappies and wipes are included.

If your child has a particular attachment to an item (blanket, teddy, soother) please bring it along. We will ask you to leave a dummy at Nursery for them which we will keep sterilised in their own little pot so you do not need to remember to bring this daily. Please also provide weather appropriate protection, so a sun hat and sun cream in Summer, and hats, gloves and warm coats in winter.

What are you fees / How do I pay/ other fee related questions?
More information about our fees and payment terms can be found on our Parent Contract which is included with this brochure.

What is the 15 hours Funding?
The government will pay for all 3 year olds to access 15 hours per week. This is to ensure that all children start school having experience an Early Years Education as it is hugely beneficial to their start in school. You can access this 15 hours with us, completely free of charge, with no additional hidden costs for meal or snacks.

If you require more than 15 hours, you will pay the usual Nursery Prices and Terms and Conditions which are stated on our Parent Contract (enclosed).

Some 2 year olds are now eligible for the funded hours depending on the circumstances of family, to check your eligibility please ask your local Children’s Centre or our Nursery Manager.

How do I book / What happens next?
The next step is for you to come and see us!

You can contact the manager directly and arrange a no obligation viewing of the nursery. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries and we’ll be more than happy to help in whatever way we can.

“"We can go to work without being in any doubt that Chloe has the best day care she can possibly have.""

Chloe’s Mum and Dad 2014 (Bramley Child)