

**~ Prospectus ~**

****

Reviewed April 2024

**~ Bright Start Early Years Prospectus ~**

Bright Start Early Years is located at the edge of Chivenor Married Quarters Estate. You will find us opposite the Stables and adjacent to the community centre, right on the edge of the airfield with lovely far reaching views and access to open spaces and a rich variety of birds and other wildlife.

We are registered with Ofsted for 35 children per session and provide care and education for children aged between 6 months and 5 years.

Our Nursery unit comprises two cosy rooms, filled with carefully chosen stimulating resources as well as sensory area, providing a smaller home-from-home feel for our younger children - double doors leading out onto a covered play area, a herb garden and grassy area.

At age rising-3, children move through into our Pre-school. Children are based in a large open plan play room which leads out to a large outdoor space containing a covered patio area, a gazebo, two grassed areas, climbing equipment, and vegetable garden. Core staff have undertaken introductory Forest School training which enables us to continue to bring the Forest school ethos into our planning and activities and make the most of learning outdoors.

**Our Vision**  
We inspire and encourage young minds, through a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment, to develop creative, confident and enthusiastic learners for the next generation and beyond.

**Mission Statement**  
Through our safe and inspiring setting, our passionate and well-trained staff maintain a kind, respectful, supportive and loving environment: full of exciting opportunities, activities and experiences for children to explore, and interact with, the world around them. We believe each child has unique and wonderful talents and skills which will help them make their mark on the world. We aim to work with the whole family to help each child achieve the best possible start in life and develop the building blocks for a lifelong love of learning and the confidence, tenacity and enthusiasm to achieve their goals. With an equal indoor/outdoor focus for learning, Forest school ethos and the opportunity for vitally important ‘risky play’ in a carefully structured environment, we help children engage and explore, learning to care for and respect others as well as this beautiful world in which we live.

**Planning**

Bright Start Early Years follows the 2024 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, devised by the government to bring more emphasis to the 3 Prime Areas which underpin a child’s self-esteem and provide the building blocks for confident and successful growth. This is still based around our core ethos, which focuses on the importance of child-centred play, and staff planning is thoughtfully adapted to meet the needs of each individual child.

All staff are mindful of the 4 overarching principles when planning opportunities and carrying out activities with the children ~

A Unique Child Positive Relationships

Enabling Environments Learning and Development

The 3 Prime Areas of development for the EYFS are ~

* Personal, Social & Emotional Development
* Communication and Language
* Physical Development

In addition we also plan for at Specific Areas of development ~

Literacy Understanding the World

Mathematics Expressive Arts and Design

Within the nursery and pre-school, toys and equipment are used both traditionally and with a twist ~ for example ‘sand & water’ play giving opportunities for weighing and measuring, may run alongside spaghetti and baked beans for more creative opportunities! All opportunities, whether planned or spontaneous, are used to extend the children’s learning experience - with staff using careful questioning and explanation to support the children’s natural curiosity. Our **Gardening club sessions**, run by **Jenny** throughout Spring and Summer to enhance outdoor and nature learning for the children.

Music and Movement will be used throughout the nursery as an aid to children’s learning and physical and emotional health and the children will enjoy our very own regular **Noisy Nippers** session from **Cathy** 😊 Other visits and sessions are arranged from time to time, to bring our learning topics alive and provide fantastic opportunities for the children to experience.

Although nursery and pre-school are in different parts of the building, the routine of the day is carefully designed to reduce segregation and promote an inclusive environment. All age groups have opportunities to intermix, as well as have time in their own age groups. This is of benefit, particularly to those with siblings or children with specific needs, and helps children to understand the needs of others as well as validating their own sense of identity.

We provide a progress check at 2-3yrs and also an EYFS profile at 4yr to aid transition into Primary School – we pride ourselves on strong links with a variety of Primary Schools in the Braunton and Barnstaple area, surrounding villages and beyond… supporting a smooth move for your child, whichever Primary School you choose.

More information about the EYFS can be found at <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk>

**Session times & pricing**

Monday to Friday

Flexible sessions available between 7.30am and 5pm (6pm available by arrangement)

The hourly rates for each age group, from **April 2024**, remain very competitive and we operate a No Hidden Fees approach – no administration or consumables charges, no extra costs for visits or outings, everything is covered as part of our Bright Start Early Years membership – please contact for more information.

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a maximum of 15hr per week of funded hours. Eligible children can receive and additional 15hr (total 30hr per week) extended funding. Hours taken outside of this funding will be charged at the normal hourly rate for 3 and 4yr olds. We also offer 15hr per week funded sessions for eligible 2yr olds, and from September 2024 this will be extended to all eligible children 9mth and over.

At present Bright Start Early Years is open 46 weeks a year and our term dates follow those of the local primary schools in Braunton, these are displayed on the parents’ information board. Our **Holiday club runs throughout Easter and Summer Holidays**. Half term care can be arranged, with sufficient notice.

We understand that many of our Forces Families move regularly and we would be grateful if you would give us at least one month's notice so that we may prepare transition documents for your child’s new setting.

We provide up to 1140hr per week EYEf for 3-4yr olds, 570hr for disadvantaged 2yr olds, and now many more 2yr olds can access 570hr of funding under the new working families’ entitlements scheme. This is due for roll out to 9mth and over from September 2024 – please ask for more information. We can also advise on Voucher funding, Tax Credits and other ways to make your childcare a little more affordable.

**Staffing**

At Bright Start, our team of dedicated and qualified staff have been hand-picked to ensure that not only do they hold the right skills and experience to support your child but also that they are loving and genuinely passionate about children and the ‘importance of play’ ethos that we have in both nursery and pre-school.

Each child is designated a Key Person who oversees their development and keeps you fully informed about their well-being and progress at our nursery. We ask you to complete an “All About Me” before your child starts so that we can get to know them and help them to settle in. If you have any queries or concerns, or would like to share information about your child staff are always available at the beginning or end of session. Or, if you wish, you may telephone at any time. The key person will keep records of your child’s learning and development including observations, photographs and samples of their work in a “Learning Journey”. This folder is available to view at any time and we would like you to add to it too - particularly if your child has done something you are proud of eg. learnt to ride a bike or dress themselves, if they have tried something for the first time or been somewhere interesting. The “Learning Journey” will be given to you once your child leaves the setting.

Within the nursery and preschool we have high staff:child ratios, which exceed government regulations, to enable one-to-one care as well as group play throughout the day. On walks or trips, out and about we maintain a higher ratio with younger children to enable increased safety outside of the setting.

It is particularly important that staff relationships are fostered effectively to ensure a happy and relaxed atmosphere within which the children have fantastic role-models to support your parenting. A happy staff base makes for a happy and settled environment for your child and Bright Start Early Years is dedicated to each staff member’s CPD so we know your child is benefiting from the most up to date research and training.

**Importance of Parents or Primary Carers**

Here at Bright Start we believe that the parental, or primary care, bond is essential and therefore work very closely to ensure that communication between staff and family is nurtured.

This is done in a variety of ways ~

* Daily Information sharing in individual Message Books
* Regular Newsletters
* Weekly Bright Start updates via Facebook, and our notice boards provide regular updates on what’s going on each week.
* Through updating information on our website and via email and phone contact.
* We also provide support and advice for the more difficult aspects of childrearing and can tackle weaning, teething, potty-training and challenging behaviour along the way, as we know how hard it can sometimes be - especially first time around!

As part of our holistic approach to childcare we link with a range of external services such as Early Help, Health Visitors, the Children's Centre, Food & Nutrition and Speech & Language experts. Please ask for more information on this and the many other agencies we link with, and how we can help put you in touch with additional care and support for you and your little ones.

**Safety & Security**

Safety is paramount at Bright Start Early Years and we have regular health and safety checks, cleaning rotas and a very strict security procedure for anyone picking up your child. Bright Start Early Years is here for you and your child and therefore parental views are very important to us. We encourage regular feedback, both in the nursery and preschool. Our Policies and Procedures are regularly reviewed and revised to take into account your needs, as well as legislative changes. Parents will be advised of any changes that occur and if we are unable to make any changes that you suggest we always try to give clear reasons as to why. We also promote healthy living with provision of healthy snacks and drinks, water throughout the day and lots of outdoor play and physical play both inside and out – Healthy Living is also a regular theme running through our planning topics during the year.

**Typical routine of the day**

We promote children’s independence at the start of each session by encouraging them to hang up their own coats and bags on their peg. Younger children will have their own basket where we can keep nappies, wipes etc, and older children have access to their own named trays for their personal effects and creations! Your child will be invited to find their name label for self-registration. Parents are welcomed to come in to settle their child and to say their goodbyes. This is also an opportunity to talk to your child’s key person.

Access to reading materials and the written and spoken word, are essential to good Communication and Language development, from a very early age. Each child will be given a plastic wallet so that they can borrow a book to share with you at home. Books may be changed as often as your child would like.

Once all children have arrived, they split into age-specific key-groups for Circle Time. This is an opportunity for each key person to talk about the activities that have been specifically provided that day and to ask the children to share their news and discuss any ideas they may have for things they would like to do. Their ideas will be fed into our planning which is displayed on our planning wall. Children are encouraged to follow their own interests and can access the indoor and outdoor space and resources independently. Staff plan activities and experiences carefully in order to cover all areas of your child’s development, through each child’s specific interests.

The Nursery and Pre-School have zoned areas including construction, small world, role-play, book corner, writing table, ICT, painting, workshop/creative area. Resources and layouts are adjusted from time to time, dependent on the needs of the group and to keep things fresh and stimulating.

Children can also access sand and water play, bikes, balls, den-making and playing outside. Creativity is taught and encouraged, for example through provision of “loose parts” such as tyres, guttering and milk crates for children to use imaginatively. Children are always supervised to ensure their safety. The safe use of tools and resources is discussed regularly.

There are also adult led activities ensuring children are practising skills and learning across the prime and specific areas. We take children on walks and visit the local amenities as often as we can, although our extensive outdoor areas allow lots of fresh area and play in the natural environment.

Mid-morning and mid-afternoon we have snack. We use this time to practise social skills and to try out new foods. Children are encouraged to pour their own drinks and use cutlery if appropriate. We provide a range of foods eg. fruit, vegetables, bread, crackers, wraps, pitta bread, cereal, cheese, hummus, dips and sometimes hotdogs, spaghetti, baked beans or noodles. At snack we offer milk or water to drink, to encourage the drinking of milk for healthy teeth and bones. You are welcome to bring juices, squash, smoothies etc for drinks with your child’s packed lunch.

On our registration form you will be asked to provide information regarding specific dietary requirements.

At the end of the session we all tidy up and then have story time. We review our morning’s work, sing nursery rhymes and read a story or two. If staying all day, we ask that parents provide a clearly labelled packed lunch. We have a designated ‘water station’ within the nursery where children can access water independently throughout the day, from a jug and beaker or cup suitable for their age and abilities.

**Policies and Procedures**

We have policies and procedures to cover many aspects of the setting. They are adopted and signed by all members of staff and are reviewed regularly. A list of the policies and procedures are displayed in the setting and are available on request. Feedback is always welcome.

**Admissions**

Admissions are based on availability of places and length of time on our waiting list.

We operate an inclusion and equality policy and ensure that all children have access to places and services irrespective of their gender, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation of parents.

As Early Years Practitioners we strive to improve the outcomes of all the children who attend the setting. If necessary we will seek additional advice and/or support from other agencies. We always discuss concerns with parents first, and will gain parental consent before speaking to other professionals.

**And finally…**

To support your child’s sense of ownership in their nursery we have developed a range of uniform – including poloshirts, jumpers, bags and water bottles. For more information on this please ask when you come and look around.

In this pamphlet we have aimed to provide a summary of information about our nursery. Full details of current Topics, Policies & Procedures, Terms & Conditions and Staff names and qualifications can be found in the setting ~ website details to follow. If you have any further questions or would like to arrange a viewing (if you haven’t already done so) please contact us by phone or email at the addresses below.

We feel confident we can meet the needs of you and your child and look forward to you joining the Bright Start Family! ☺

****

**Bright Start Early Years**

The Farthings,

Hawks House, Chivenor,

Barnstaple,

EX31 4AZ

**Nursery** Tel**:** 01271 857315

**Pre-school** Tel: 01271 857728 **Email:** [brightstartearlyyears@gmail.com](mailto:brightstartearlyyears@gmail.com)

Website: [www.brightstartearlyyears.co.uk](http://www.brightstartearlyyears.co.uk)