



Little Hands Melbourn Booking Information for children under 2 years

This booklet contains information and guidance to help you plan and book sessions for your young child at Little Hands - Melbourn

If you need any further information after reading this booklet please contact the Nursery where a member of staff will be able to answer your queries.

To reserve sessions for your child please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Nursery.

On receiving your form, sessions will be reserved for your child and we will send you further information ready to start at Little Hands.



Deciding if nursery is right for you and your baby

Placing your baby in a nursery setting will not have been an easy decision for you to make - you may even feel it's a need to rather than a want to decision. But together we can make nursery an enriching and positive experience for you and your young child.

At Little Hands we feel that a happy successful nursery start for a baby is directly linked to the planning and preparation made together by parents and nursery staff. So Little Hands staff will work closely with you to make sure that you feel comfortable and ready to leave your young child.

You will have already visited the nursery and spent time with the manager so hopefully many of your questions will have been answered and you feel ready to book sessions at Little Hands but if you have any further questions or worries please contact the manager and discuss them before booking.

You can visit nursery again, talk on the phone or email.

Together we can help you decide not just if Little Hands is the best nursery for you but also if you are ready to leave your baby in our care.

We can advise you on other forms of childcare available if you decide you are not ready to use a nursery setting.

We can discuss our pre-admission procedure and how best to plan for your young child's start at nursery.

With this careful preparation we hope to achieve a positive nursery start for you and your child.



Booking Sessions at Little Hands

Little Hands offers a very flexible booking system to give you options to build the most suitable nursery week for your young child and pay for just the timings you need.

The booking form enclosed is for term time which is 38 weeks per year. The main payment and cancellation policies apply to this booking.

Holiday Club is also offered, giving up to a 51 week nursery year allowing you to book just the holiday slots which work for your family and pay for just the holiday weeks you need. This operates in an 'opt out' system which means that your term time booking is carried over into Holiday Club unless you instruct us otherwise.

Also, Holiday Club sessions are available to children aged 2 to 7 years making them suitable for older brothers and sisters.

We open 08.00 – 17.30 five days per week and all sessions operate with a high staff to child ratio using only Little Hands staff.

The nursery day is organised around two main sessions

Morning	09.00 – 12.00
Afternoon	13.00 – 15.00

These core sessions allow time for learning, both planned and spontaneous which is uninterrupted by drop offs or collection. We also offer additional slots

Lunch hour	12.00 - 13.00
Early starts	08.00 - 09.00
late finishes	15.00 - 16.00, 16.00 – 17.00 and 17.00 - 17.30

We advise a minimum of 6 hours per week in two sessions

It may be possible to increase sessions mid-year but this depends on availability so please plan any increases and speak to the nursery manager well in advance.



Fees

Fees for children under 2 are £7.70 per hour. Invoices are issued in advance for each half term and holiday club. Payment by direct bank payment is preferred. The nursery bank details are:

Bank: HSBC, Sort code: 40-16-59, Account number: 60037524

Fees must be paid by the Friday before the start of each half term or holiday club to secure the child's place. Little Hands reserves the right to withdraw sessions if fees are not paid.

Supplements

In addition to the hourly cost there is a supplement cost of

Hot Meal	16.00 - 17.00	£1	for all ages
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The hot meal supplement pays 50% towards the cost of the meal.

If the supplement fees are a barrier to your child attending Little Hands - please speak to the nursery manager who may be able to help.

If high levels of infectious illness affect staffing levels we may, as a last resort, need to limit spaces or close the nursery in line with our Outbreak Management Plan and/or following guidance from our local Health Protection Team. If this happens, we will aim to reimburse paid for sessions or offer make-up sessions at times when a staffed space is available.

Alternative payment arrangements can be made (e.g. monthly) with the manager if needed, providing the invoice is paid in full by the Friday before each half term or holiday club.

Payment can be made using Childcare Vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare - providing the invoice is paid in full by the Friday before each half term or holiday club. Please note it can take 5 working days from requesting a Tax-Free Childcare or voucher payment to the fees arriving in the nursery bank account.

Tax relief on full price fees

Childcare vouchers and tax credits offer tax relief for nursery fees. Parents may also be eligible for tax relief on childcare from HMRC.

For more information visit: <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk>

Notice Period

Seven term weeks' notice is required to reduce or cancel term time bookings. This ensures stable staffing levels can be maintained. During the notice period the fees remain payable in full and previously booked sessions remain open for your child whether or not they attend.

Late Pay

£20 will be added to all fees paid late.

Late Collection

As sessions are booked and staffed mostly in hourly slots, late collection of children could have a major impact on our staff to child ratio. Repeated late collection will be charged at £10 per 15 minute period. Parents would be advised in advance that they were to be charged and options discussed to help future prompt collection.



Funding Information - for when your child is older

2 year olds

15 hours of funding is available for two year olds whose family meets certain criteria -please speak to the nursery manager for further details on two year old funding.

3 and 4 year olds

15 hours funding is available for all children the term after their third birthday (universal entitlement).

Please note that for the purpose of eligibility, the Education Department state that terms are from 1st January, 1st April and 1st September irrespective of the actual date the term starts.

The universal entitlement for all children is 570 hours per calendar year. This gives 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of term time or spread over the whole year as 11.4 hours for 50 weeks.

Government also offer up to 30 hours funding per week (extended entitlement) for parents who meet the following criteria:

Both parents are working

The parent in a lone parent family is working

Both parents are working but at least one parent is temporarily away on maternity, adoption or statutory sick leave

One parent is employed, and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities and receives specific benefits for caring

One parent is employed, and one parent is disabled or incapacitated and receives specific benefits

Each parent (or the working parent, in families where only one parent can work) earns at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the national minimum wage per week but less than £100,000 per year.

To receive extended funding, parents must apply to HMRC online for an authorisation code which is then given to nursery. The nursery manager will be able to advise you about the application and further information can be found at:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



Routine at Little Hands

From your first visit to our nursery to see our baby room we are always thinking of you and your baby's needs

We work with you to learn about your baby's routines at home and how we can best support them at nursery - from feeding to sleeping; although sometimes the excitement of a new environment can result in the child changing their usual routine when at nursery!

We follow a simple daily nursery routine with the babies that enables them to feel safe and secure and you to feel confident in the care they are receiving whilst here.

Your baby will need close loving relationships with adults so that they feel safe and secure, we offer this through the robust key person approach that we have firmly in place.

Your baby's key person will ensure that routines such as nappy changing, feeding and settling to sleep are opportunities for 'one to one' time, and are consistent with your routines at home.

This is an exciting time for your young child as they will already be beginning to show you all the amazing things they are already starting to learn. Babies grow and develop rapidly during their first year and they begin to gain control of their bodies and become increasingly mobile. They learn about language by listening to adults talking to them and they start to make sounds and eventually their first words.

We offer our young children many different experiences whilst they are in our care to help develop and encourage their natural growth from exploring treasure baskets filled with a wonderful assortment of objects to splashing around at the water table. We have many opportunities for one to one time with us as we talk, cuddle, sing, play with your baby which strengthens their own individual learning journeys.

When we put the children down for a daytime sleep we have cots and sleep mats available for each child. Each child will have their own sheet which keeps their sleeping environment hygienic and fresh. Whilst the children are asleep we always have staff in the room.

We keep a record of the day's activities on an online system called Tapestry; we start a profile for your child, and you are invited to start an account so that you can view your child's development and activities every day. Tapestry features a Care Diary which will detail your child's feeding and sleeping. We also upload observations, photographs and videos of your child at play for you to view. You can add photographs and videos to your child's Tapestry profile and therefore share any special events or activities in your child's life with us. In addition, we will always try to be available to chat to you at the beginning or end of the day so that you can ask us any questions you may have.



Learning and Development at Little Hands

The under two's area is planned using the guidelines and requirements for both care and learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

To enhance your child's learning the key worker assesses your child's progress, recording this on your child's Tapestry Profile which is used throughout their nursery years.

With children under 2 we concentrate this assessment and planning mainly on the 3 main areas of learning,

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and language

Physical development

To plan your child's day at Little Hands we use the EYFS guidance within a system called ***Learning in the Moment***.

The nursery is set up to give the children an ***enabling environment*** so they can select equipment easily and independently making their own choices.

More information regarding the EYFS is available from the nursery or at:

www.foundationyears.org.uk

What Next?

If you would like to reserve a place at Little Hands for your child, please complete and return the enclosed booking form by post or email to the address on the back of this booklet.

Once we receive your booking, we reserve the spaces and you will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit. Once the deposit has been paid your booking will be guaranteed and we will send you further information about starting at Little Hands.

We advise that you begin planning your child's first day at nursery with us at least 6 weeks before they are due to start.

We offer as many pre-admission visits as you want to make with your child during this time and these are free of charge.

If you have any questions please contact us for a chat



Little Hands Nursery School – Bourn

The Village Hall
Short Street
Bourn
Cambridgeshire
CB23 2SG

Tel : 01954 710656 email : lh.bourn@gmail.com

Little Hands Nursery School – Linton & Bartlow

Unit 5
Three Hills Farm
Bartlow
Cambridgeshire
CB21 4EN

Tel : 01223 897945 email : lh-bartlow@btconnect.com

Little Hands Nursery School – Melbourn

The Moor
Melbourn
Nr Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 6ED

Tel : 01763 260964 email : lh-melbourn@btconnect.com

Little Hands Nursery School – Newton

Newton Hall
Town Street
Newton
Cambridgeshire
CB22 7ZE

Tel : 01223 872796 email : lh-newton@btconnect.com