

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

Little Scholars
NURSERY

MEITHRINFA
Ysgolheigion Bach







Welcome

Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, inclusive and stable environment that is innovative, stimulating and challenging and in which all children thrive, learn and make new friends.

We support children to become capable, confident and independent individuals. We provide a safe, developmentally-inclusive environment for babies (0-2), toddlers (2-3) and preschool age children (3-5).

We aim to provide a stimulating early learning and childcare experience which promotes each child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive and creative development. Our goal is to support and nurture the children's natural curiosity, encouraging them to be life-long learners. We are committed to the families who make up our community, providing support and encouragement.

Our Values:

- **Trust and quality care**

When parents are looking for quality day care services they need to find a centre with staff that they can trust. We continuously improve our services to meet the needs of the children and families we service.

- **Learning for life**

We share a responsibility to support and nurture the children's and our own natural curiosity and capacity to learn. We develop a positive staff experience to match the child's experience, believing that success in both is interdependent and that well-being is a priority. We learn alongside the children and their families and embrace the opportunity to learn and grow each day.

- **Partnership**

Respectful relationships are very important and are the basis on which our organisation operates. We believe that the quality of care we provide is measured by the quality of relationships we have with the children, families, employees, colleagues and regulatory bodies. We are committed to ensuring these relationships are respectful; warm and caring; honest and open; fair and equitable.





Why choose us?

We fully understand that children learn through play and offer a varied, rich learning experience.

We believe that children deserve the highest standard of care in order for them to have the very best start in life. We give children opportunities to use their imagination and be creative.

Our job is to prepare them for the next step in their journey which will be school and beyond. We will give the foundations of knowledge to help them with literacy and numeracy when they start school.

- **The excellent standard of our care** is reflected in the inspections carried out by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). Our latest inspection found that children are happy, have forged close relationships with staff, and that play and learning experiences are very positive, meeting a variety of needs and abilities.
- We have the '**Sun Safe Nursery**' scheme in place.
- We participate actively in the Welsh Government **Design to Smile** scheme to promote dental hygiene.
- We **promote healthy eating** and have achieved the **Gold Standard Plus Healthy Snack** award.

A community approach

Your children are at the heart of everything we do.

We see ourselves as part of your extended family, honoured and proud to look after the most precious person in your life. We find it deeply rewarding to see every child develop and grow during their time with us.

Parents are a hugely important part of our community – you will be invited to attend our carol concerts and our fetes, to bring your children to meet Father Christmas and to attend special events to celebrate your child's achievements.

You are welcome to visit your child at any point of the day and can always ring us to check on your child. You are also welcome to come and breast feed your baby. At the start of every session we'll listen carefully to what you tell us about how your child is feeling and any special requirements, and we will give you a detailed report on your child's day when you come to collect them.

We realise at times it may not be possible to connect with us in person. The team are only a telephone call or virtual call away.

“Play
is the highest
form of research”

Albert Einstein





Our approach

We embrace the concept that children learn through play and need a varied, rich learning experience.

Every day our children participate in reading, stories, singing, role play and games to encourage literacy and numeracy. We equip the children with the building blocks for further learning when they begin school. Arts and crafts are undertaken on a regular basis with children producing work to take home.

Outdoor play and physical activity are a major part of our children's day. We believe that any activity you can do indoors should be taken outdoors whenever possible. We have large garden areas available for every age group, with space to plant vegetables and herbs used in our own kitchen.

Our facilities and resources

We benefit from excellent facilities – these include:

- Large and private garden areas for outdoor play and activities, including under-cover areas for wetter days.
- A role play room where various ages can come together to play.
- Spacious and airy rooms for each of our age groups – babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers – equipped with age-appropriate play equipment and facilities.
- A dedicated cot room to allow babies to sleep uninterrupted at any time throughout the day, following parents' wishes and routines wherever possible. This room is constantly monitored by our staff.
- Little beds for each toddler to sleep after lunch, with each child using the same bed each day.
- We are located in the middle of the University's campus with dedicated parking for picking up and dropping off children.
- We have a very high standard of security and abide by strict protocols to keep our children safe and secure.
- Our toddlers and Pre-Schoolers benefit from sports sessions and other extra-curricular trips and events, included in the nursery fee, with staff continuing exercises throughout the week. We know the importance of children having regular exercise to keep a healthy body and healthy mind.





Our staff

We provide an excellent experience for our staff, matching that of the children in our care, and invest in the development of all our team members.

This helps us to retain a team which really has the best interests of its children at heart. We provide opportunities for staff to have training in all areas, ensuring that we have the right skills, knowledge, attitude and behaviours which is fundamental to our success.

All of our core staff are qualified to level 3 in Child Care with Management and Section Leaders are qualified to level 5 in Advanced Practice and Management.

All nursery nurses and assistants are trained in paediatric first aid and qualified to level 2 in Food Hygiene.

Teaching children to be independent

We encourage independence at every stage in the children's development.

We help babies to feed themselves and as they grow to find their own shoes and coats and put them on. We help the older ones to go to the toilet on their own, while being around if they need any help at all. This helps prepare them for school where they will have to do these things for themselves. The children take great pride when we praise them for being so clever for every new challenge they undertake.

We also encourage children to take supervised risks in a controlled environment, encouraging them to safely explore the outdoor world in particular. We have camp fires in the garden areas, and make dens and climb trees. We also benefit from external visitors, such as the Zoolab, who bring in a variety of insects and lizards, and the RSPB, who help us to fully explore the outdoor areas. Both of these help us to teach children about our wildlife, habitats, how to protect them and how important these are to our environment.





Our food

Our cook prepares fresh meals every day, with healthy eating at the heart of all food prepared at the day care centre.

We have a four week rolling menu, changed several times a year, which provides the children with plenty of variety and the opportunity to try new foods.

We have been awarded the Gold Standard Plus Healthy Snack Award and promote healthy eating. We maintain a level 5 hygiene rating by the Food Standards Agency.

Settling in

Prior to your child starting we will arrange short sessions where they can come in and gently get to know the staff and the surroundings.

This also helps parents to gradually build relationships with our staff and become familiar and comfortable with leaving children in our care. During this time children have time getting to know their key-worker, developing a bond with them and the other staff.

Friendships begin to develop during this period so that when the time comes for them to spend a full session here it is not daunting or unfamiliar to them or the parents.

Salary Sacrifice

The University operates a Salary Sacrifice Scheme for university staff using the University's Day Care Centre. This scheme allows parents to pay for their day care charges by salary deduction and receive tax and national insurance (NI) breaks in full on the deductions as long as they are for the whole amount of the day care costs incurred.



Our aims

Babies (0-2)

- To offer security, warmth, love and affection
- To meet the basic needs of the individual child, feeding, changing, sleeping etc.
- To provide a range of stimulating activities focusing on the babies visual, auditory and tactile development
- To aid social, physical and emotional development
- To make each child feel valued
- To provide equal opportunities for each child
- To offer opportunities for children to be creative while maintaining appropriate protection and supervision
- To use language to strengthen and provide meaning to all that we do
- To familiarise children with small group time, singing, looking at books, etc.

Toddlers (2-3)

- To provide an environment where each child can develop a sense of security, warmth, love and affection
- To make each child feel valued
- To provide equal opportunities for each child
- To offer opportunities for children to be creative
- To use language to strengthen and provide meaning to all that we do
- To familiarise children with small group time, singing, looking at books, etc.
- To give the child opportunities to interact with their peers and adults
- To enable children to gain a sense of social awareness and knowledge relating to their world.

Pre-School (3-5)

- To provide a strong sense of security based on contentment and trust
- To encourage self-confidence, achievement and self-esteem
- To promote positive attitudes to learning
- To give the child opportunities to interact with their peers and adults
- To develop an awareness of the needs of others
- To encourage independence and a sense of responsibility
- To enable the children to gain a sense of awareness and knowledge relating to their world
- To stimulate a sense of appreciation.
- To encourage communication skills through all forms of artistic expression
- To stimulate independence and creative thinking
- To encourage reasoning
- To concentrate on promoting language development across the curriculum.

Opening hours

The nursery is open between **8am-6pm, five days a week**, with morning and afternoon slots available.

We ask that you arrive ten minutes before nursery closing time so that we can make sure we tell you about your child's day.







Contact us

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