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WELCOME

Thank you for considering Little Blessings as your childcare provider. We are delighted and excited to welcome you and your children here at Little Blessings Childcare and Education.

Improving your child's education, safety and enjoyment at nursery, is something we believe deeply in achieving. We believe in changing and challenging the way childcare is currently provided.

Your child needs to feel more homely, safe and get the personal attention which is often lost at bigger nurseries. Whilst also receiving the highest quality education and activities which the smaller nursery's usually fall short on. If you'd like a setting that provides your child with great quality childcare, by not only combining the benefits of a big and a small nursery, but also by having managers with an overwhelming experience of caring for children, then Little Blessings is the setting for you!

About the Owner - Sandra Peart



Sandra Peart has spent the majority of her career (20 plus years) working at various levels within the nursery environment. From nursery practitioner to nursery manager. She has held senior positions at some of the biggest childcare providers improving the quality of childcare at almost every nursery she has worked at, receiving various awards as recognition of this. Having recognised where most nurseries fall short and fed-up with many of the downfalls and incompetency's she found, she now embarks on the next natural step of creating her own nursery franchise providing exemplary service.

Sandra Peart recognises the importance of constantly improving oneself by regularly attending and sending herself on various training courses and seminars to learn and update her knowledge on topics such as Health and Safety, Special Educational Needs, Food Hygiene and Safeguarding.

In 2011, she further demonstrated her desire and passion for childcare by enrolling and completing her university Early Childhood Studies degree. Allowing her to gain further knowledge on the implications of play, development and learning of children. Enabling her to provide even better quality childcare.

Sandra Peart is widely regarded by her peers as being one of the very best in her field being nominated and winning employee of the year on numerous occasions in her previous roles.

Why is childcare so important?

The First Five Years of a Child's Life

Psychologists have proven that the first five years of a child's life is very important. During this time their brains are developing very quickly and can absorb more information than at any other time during their lives. It is in these first years that we can deeply affect our children's self esteem and shape their future by what we say and do.

Children Learn What They Live (1998) by Dorothy Law Nolte (1924 - 2005)

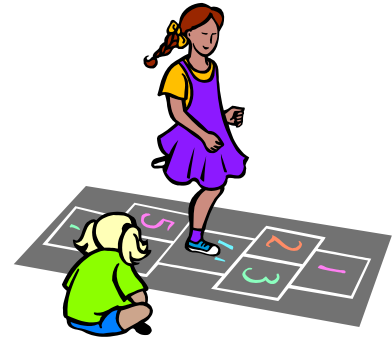
If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.	If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.	If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive .	If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.	If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with ridicule , they learn to feel shy.	If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.	If children live with fairness , they learn justice.
If children live with shame , they learn to feel guilty .	If children live with kindness and consideration , they learn respect.
If children live with encouragement , they learn confidence.	If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.	If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.
If children live with praise , they learn appreciation.	

During the formative stage it is therefore crucial to place children in a stimulating environment where, not only can they learn and absorb most effectively, but they can begin the important process of relating to people outside the safe environment of their own family.

DID YOU KNOW?

When attending a high quality child care centre children demonstrated ¹

- better cognitive, language, and social development
- better school readiness (e.g. reading, writing, number skills)



How We Provide Quality Childcare and Learning



Approach and Ethos

Little Blessing's works in partnership with parents to give children the best start in life. It is committed to ensuring that the children enjoy and benefit from attending our setting. Each day is structured to provide relaxation, play and teaching. By providing a safe, secure, warm, comfortable and stimulating environment we hope to develop individuals with a positive self-image of themselves and others. Little Blessings believe it is important to view the 'whole child' rather than just the 'pupil' and we therefore place a strong emphasis on each child's individual rate of development.

We value our children and fully understand many parents predicament in that sometimes a child has to attend a setting not by choice but because of circumstances. We want our parents to feel comfortable in the knowledge that their child is enjoying the benefits, experience and loving care that our setting provides. We do not aim to replace the parents, no setting can ever do that, but we aim to support the parents in the care and education of their child. This approach diminishes the apprehension with which some children and parents face when taking their first step on the childcare and educational ladder.



Our Team

Our practitioners are qualified and experienced. We have a lead practitioner with a degree in Early Years Childhood Studies to ensure that quality childcare and education is provided and maintained.

We only add people to our team who share my same passion and drive for providing the best quality childcare. As such, all practitioners are enthusiastic and caring - combining a love of young children with professional expertise. This is coupled with an understanding of the children's needs and their development processes.

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum reflects our deep understanding of children and how they perceive the world around them. We build on their knowledge and attend to their points of difficulty. We have developed the expertise to draw out the best in each individual child by allowing them the space to discover things for themselves.

The tempo of the teaching is always in tune with the concentration span of a particular age group. A computer is provided and the children are encouraged to use it in their play and learning.

Little Blessings ensure that each child has a firm foundation before entering school. We support the child develop in all areas not just academically. We help them to socialise with each other and with adults, express their emotions clearly, experience the environment around them and develop confidence and therefore independence. This includes outings within the local community such as to shops, parks and the library. A number of trips to theatres, zoos, farms etc. are also planned annually which support the children in their learning.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The children who attend Little Blessings follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The EYFS focuses on the distinct needs of children from birth to 8 years. It aims to support young children achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes of staying

safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being. Play is a vital part of the curriculum. It recognises that through supported play children can explore, use, and develop their curiosity and imagination to help them make sense of the world in a safe and secure environment. They practice skills, build up ideas and concepts, think creatively and imaginatively and communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is divided into seven developmental areas which are detailed below:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Disposition and attitude
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Making relationships
- Behaviour and self control
- Self-care
- Sense of community



Literacy

- Reading
- Writing
- Handwriting



Mathematics

- Numbers as labels and for counting
- Calculating
- Shape, space and measures

Communication and Language

- Language for communication
- Language for thinking
- Linking sounds and letters



Physical Development

- Movement and space
- Health and bodily awareness
- Using equipment and materials



Understanding of the World

- Exploration and investigation (Science)
- Designing and making
- ICT
- Time
- Place
- Community

Expressive Art and Design

- Exploring media and materials
- Music and dance
- Imagination and imaginative play
- Responding to experience
- Expressing and communicating ideas



Ensuring your child settles in

Little Blessings is committed to a continuous process of listening and responding to parents. This is both in terms of their child's learning and development and listening to their views and ideas. We have an open door policy so that parents can always come in and talk to our friendly staff.

The first few weeks when a child is settling into an early years setting is a time of crucial importance to their later happiness in the setting. All children are individuals and while some children will adjust fairly easily to the new environment and new routines, others will take longer to feel comfortable and secure.

Settling In Period

Little Blessings offer three days of settling and is flexible to the individual needs of the child. This is free of charge during which a new child's hours are increased gradually to ensure a smooth start to life at Little Blessing.

Key Worker System

Care of a child at any age is important and a consistent carer is of value. We therefore operate a Key Worker System which enables the parent to form a relationship with one of our practitioners and it is this practitioner that will continuously observe the child and notes the child's progress and development.

Parent's Evening

Parent's evenings are held twice a year to discuss children's progress and development. This is based around a child's 'profile' which is a continually growing record of their progress and development whilst in our care. It contains daily observations made by a child's key worker, samples of a child's work and photographic evidence.

News Letters

Little Blessings provide parents with up to date news through a news letter published which informs parents of events, initiatives and general news within our setting.

Special Events

Fun Days are held every year to raise money for our chosen charity the NSPCC.

Nutrition

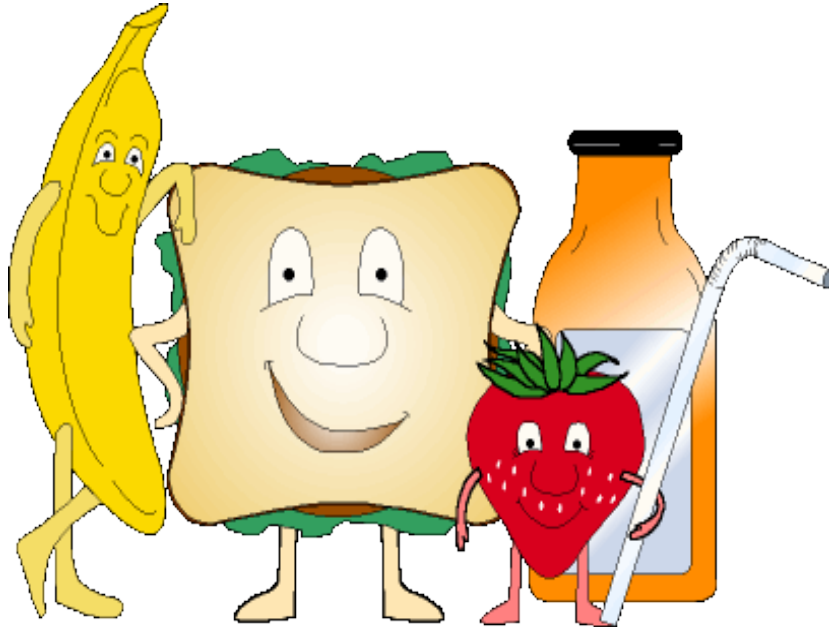
At Little Blessings meal times are happy, relaxed social occasions. Children sit in small groups at tables and are encouraged to serve, talk to each other and also clear up at the end of the meal. At lunch time the preschool children lay the tables with table clothes and flowers to enhance mealtimes.

Meals provided at Little Blessings are nutritious and well balanced, and are freshly prepared on the premises by our qualified cook. Alternatively parents can provide their children with meals prepared at home. We do encourage parents to provide their child with a balanced diet and substantial amount of food for their time in our care. Our policy states that morning snacks provided must be either a healthy snack for example fruit, vegetables or a cereal bar.

(An example of good healthy meals can be seen on the parents notice board within our setting.)

Our policy takes into account best practice minimising the use of salt, sugar and other additives. Drinking water is available throughout the day. We cater for vegetarian and other special dietary needs.

Our rotating menu consists of 3 meals a day: breakfast, lunch and tea, and also mid morning snack times where fresh fruit, vegetables and water/milk are served. A weekly menu plan is displayed on the parent notice board and each week sees a different menu to ensure interest and variety. The menus reflect a diversity of cultures, enhancing children's experiences of the wider world.



Sample Menu:

Monday

Lunch

Shepherd's pie carrots and peas

Trifle

Tea

Sandwiches

Jam Tarts

Tuesday

Lunch

Chicken potatoes and broccoli

Yogurt

Tea

Crackers, cheese, carrots celery sticks

Apple and raisins

Wednesday

Lunch

Sweet potatoes, rice and peas chicken

Apple and custard

Tea

Homemade chickpea and leek soup

Fruit

Thursday

Lunch

Pasta with tomato sauce cucumber and tomatoes

Tea

Pitta bread cheese and carrots

Orange loaf

Friday

Lunch

Homemade stew and dumplings

Fruit and custard

Tea

Sandwiches

Yogurt

DID YOU KNOW?

A baby has around 10,000 taste buds, far more than adults. They are not just on the tongue but also on the sides, back, and roof of the mouth.

So we have to make sure our food is good enough for these little food critics.



Babies start on formula milk, moving onto baby rice, rusks, pureed food and finally chunky food prepared from the older children's menu. We welcome breast-feeding mothers by providing storage for expressed milk.

We welcome suggestions from parents, either regarding their own child's needs or general ideas on new dishes.

Contact Us

For more information on our setting and childcare or if you have any other queries don't hesitate to contact us:

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