



Little Scamps



Welcome to Little Scamps

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding childcare at Little Scamps. We know that your priority is to find the right pre-school for your child.

At Scamps we pride ourselves on the loving and fun environment we create for the children in our care. Before a child starts at Little Scamps they have a home visit from their key worker and manager.

This helps your child to settle into the group more effectively and also serves as a starting point for building the important relationship between home and Scamps.

I think this is one of our strengths that we recognize the importance these relationships have in helping children to develop.

Staff share their observations with parents and we work together to nurture the children in our care.

Ofsted stated *"The Key worker system works remarkably well. This means children feel safe, settled and secure with the warmth and empathy which the staff offer through this very supportive arrangement."* (June 2014)



Staff Team

Manager: Debbie Cetra

Deputy Manager: Tracey

SENCO: Charlene Wall

Early Year's Practitioners/ keyworkers

Tracey, Caroline, Charlene and Carla.

Veronika and Jade (on maternity leave)

Support staff: Lauren, Kayleigh and Dominic.

Apprentices: Chloe and Alex

We are very proud of our strong staff team, with every permanent member of staff holding a qualification and we also have two apprentices working towards a qualification. This is far more than the recommendations from Ofsted so we are incredibly lucky that the staff are so committed to training and updating their skills.



Settling In

We hope that your child will soon settle into the group. Little Scamps will often be the first setting which your child has attended, and some of your children may never have left your side for any length of time before. As a result some children may initially find it difficult to say goodbye, and it may take a short time to settle into the group.

It is important for you and your child that settling in is handled as smoothly and positively as possible. By being positive about Scamps at home it will help the process; stress how lucky he/she is to be starting and what fun it will be.

Discussing the morning's routine with your child before he/she starts helps him/her build a picture of the day i.e. activities, inside, circle time, outside activities, snack bar, story time etc. We have a visual timetable to help children see what is coming next.

Books that can help prepare your child

- **Spot goes to school – Eric Hill**
- **Playschool – Helen Oxenbury**
- **Starting school – J@A Ahlberg**



Your child's first days

On your child's first day please arrive at 9.00am and be prepared to stay for a short while. Each child handles the event differently and it is important to bear this in mind.

We recommend that you leave them for an hour only on their first day and your child's key person and yourself will discuss their settling procedure together.

Some children need to build up gradually to a full session while other children may want you to go immediately and stay the full session. Don't feel rejected! This proves your child trusts you to come back.

If your child should become distressed and cannot be distracted we will always telephone you.

Session times

We are open: 9.00-12.15.

On your child's first day please arrive at 9.00. Delivering your child punctually ensures that they become accustomed to the session's routine.

Children who arrive late may miss important explanations of new activities and may disturb the routine of the other children.

Collecting your child promptly prevents them from worrying and getting distressed. For safety reasons, as well as avoiding upsetting your child, it is important that you tell a member of staff, before the event, if someone different is collecting them.

If there are any last minute changes please telephone Scamps.

We are unable to release your child unless it is to someone that is on the named authorised collection list so please do tell us if there is an additional person that you authorise.

Absence

If your child is going to be absent could you please telephone Scamps on 0208 943 9313.

Illness

It is important that we know which illnesses are around Scamps and can notify other parents i.e. Chicken pox etc. Please do not send your child in if they are unwell; streaming colds, coughs, sickness etc quickly spread to the other children and adults.

If your child has been absent with a stomach upset, please allow 48 hours since the last bout of sickness and diarrhoea.



Clothing

Please dress your child in sensible play clothes which are; easy to wear, elastic-waisted trousers enable the children to achieve independence and confidence with using the toilet. Please avoid buttons at the wrist so your child can push up their sleeves when washing their hands or playing with water. The children are encouraged to be independent and will gradually learn to manage buttons and zips.



Accidents

Young children often have accidents when they may not have reached the toilet in time or been splashed with water during water play. Staff always handle this sensitively so the child does not become distressed.

Please send your child into Scamps with a spare set of clothes in their bag. We do have a limited supply of spare clothes but young children often only want to wear their own clothes. If they do come home in Scamps clothes could you launder and return as soon as possible. Unwanted spare clothes and underwear are always useful to update our stock of spare clothes.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a wonderful way to celebrate how special we all are so we always celebrate a child's birthday.

You are welcome to bring in a birthday treat for the children but could you remember that Scamps is a **NUT FREE ZONE** due to the increasing allergies which we see.

Birthdays are not just a great social event but an opportunity to extend the children's learning: counting candles on the cake, learning the days of the week and months of the year. The children are able to discuss the different family customs for celebrating occasions.



Useful items

We never say no to "junk" from home, and we quite often put out requests for particular items to support the children's learning.

Every day objects welcomed:

- Wool, string, material.
- Boxes, cardboard cylinders.
- Newspapers catalogues
- Postcards, greetings cards
- Wallpaper books and rolls.
- Corks, cotton reels, buttons, beads and buckles.
- Household items; potato masher, pastry cutters, baking items, tea strainers.
- Hats, clothes, wigs, bags (dressing up)

Parental involvement

Parents, grandparents are very welcome to come into the group as helpers or support a particular activity. You might like to read a story to a small group, play a game, help with a craft, gardening, cooking etc. I give out regular newsletters so that you are aware of topics and themes. You may have a skill which could support a theme.

Please could I ask that we have time to settle your child before you become a parent helper.

Your child's key worker, or myself, is available after each session to discuss any concerns you may have.

We hold termly consultations with parents but staff feed back regularly their observations and discuss their child's current interests and achievements.

We look forward to getting to know your child and yourselves over the coming weeks

Best wishes,

Debbie





Parents come into the group to celebrate May day and lead a May pole dancing activity.



Gardening



ICT



Road safety (below)



Pirates and Princesses day

Small world play

Woodwork (below left)

Christmas concert

