



## Our Aims, Values and Principles

From our carefully selected resources designed to delight and stimulate fun learning, to our partnership approach with parents, and our enthusiastic, experienced and empathetic staff. We focus on what matters and ensure that children leave us 'school ready'.

We believe that every child is unique and each will thrive from enabling learning environments catering for their various age and stage of development. At Little Gulls & Buoys all children are given the opportunity to develop and grow at their own pace in a variety of child led and adult led activities and themes and through the positive relationships they develop with adults.

All our staff follow four core values that influence their behaviour and practice at Little Gulls & Buoys:

1. High quality – we don't make compromises or take shortcuts and pay attention to detail
2. Making a difference – we look to create enriching and rewarding experiences for children
3. Empathy and care – our practitioners are warm, kind, open and nurturing
4. Effective communication skills – with children, families, and colleagues we keep dialogue open, honest and supportive

Here are some of the ways in which our ethos can be seen:

- Each child has their own key person who ensures that the children are being given the opportunities to be stretched to their next stage of learning and ultimately be 'school ready'. We aim to help children to achieve their goals within the EYFS framework and give them opportunities to prepare them both developmentally and socially for school.
- We encourage creativity, self-expression and imagination through beautifully selected and home-made role play and home corner resources, extensive arts and crafts resources, puppets and at circle time.
- We promote good behaviour, social skills, moral values and respect for others by being good role models in our own behaviour, promoting consideration for individual and cultural differences and through praise and guidance.
- We encourage language development and communication by reading stories one to one and in groups. We encourage children's language through an extensive library of picture books that are always accessible and exploring language through group discussion.
- We offer a range of materials and media through which children can mark make around the setting and develop their fine motor skills and letter recognition.
- We promote physical development through our carefully resourced indoor toys and our extensively equipped garden areas. We also encourage healthy eating through baking, growing and talking about our food preferences and choices.
- We help children to become secure and confident learners and emotionally healthy through encouraging independence, praising and celebrating their achievements, involving them in the 'rules' of the pre-school and how we treat each other and our environment, and recognising and celebrating our differences.
- We encourage exploration in natural environments by outings to woods and parks and bring natural resources back into our setting. We also hold regular Forest School sessions to escape to nature.
- We focus on mathematics through carefully selected resources that makes maths enjoyable to teach and to learn. We ensure there are opportunities for counting, sorting, building and

- recognizing numbers throughout the setting.
- We help children understand the world around them through trips into the local community, celebrating key events, talking about and role playing the people who help us (doctors, nurses, firefighters, police, teachers etc), watching videos on our computer, talking at group times about the things we enjoy and places we have been, playing with small world toys and role playing in our home corner.
  - We work in partnership with parents to provide high quality childcare, specific to the developmental needs to each child, by actively asking for feedback from parents during settling, on a daily basis through discussions at drop off and pick up, through our annual survey, through our biannual parents evenings, through our Tapestry journal updates, or regularly asking for feedback within our email updates and newsletters.
  - As professional childcarers working together we constantly look at how we can improve Little Gulls & Buoys. We all attend a number of training courses to ensure that we are up to date with childcare requirements that our practice is guided by, both locally and nationally. We also ensure that all our policies and procedures cover key welfare issues such as SEN, Equality of Opportunity and Safeguarding of Children. All of our policies and procedures are available to download on our website [www.littlegullsandbuoys.co.uk](http://www.littlegullsandbuoys.co.uk) or our hard copy file is held on site and can be viewed on request.

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