



HOBBY HORSE
Children's Centre

WELCOME

"Children show that they thoroughly enjoy going to nursery. They thrive in the positive, happy and homely atmosphere, created by the attentive staff."

Ofsted, Nov 2021





WE PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EACH CHILD IS VALUED AND FEELS SECURE AND HAPPY. THE CENTRE IS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH PARENTS AS PARTNERS.

AIMS

We aim to provide an environment in which children will be encouraged to learn through play, promoting all aspects of their development.

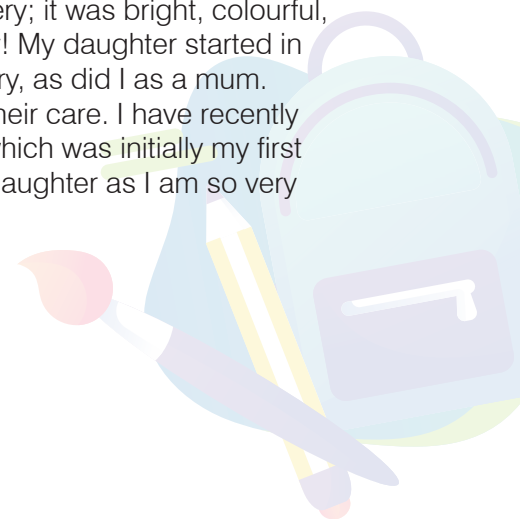
We aim to do this by:

- » providing a home from home experience where we can follow the babies' routines and parents' own values to ensure the continuity of care.
- » giving both parent and child support of a keyperson.
- » working towards the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.
- » providing opportunities for you and your family to be involved in the themed activities and in your own child's progress.
- » promoting equality of opportunity for all children and families, ensuring each child is equally valued in a secure and happy atmosphere.
- » providing continuity of care and education for children who attend more than one provider. Ensuring communication with the other provider, with parental consent.
- » providing a safe, stimulating environment in which children feel confident to make choices and motivated to become independent learners.



My initial response when visiting this nursery; it was bright, colourful, engaging and the staff were super friendly! My daughter started in September and instantly took to the nursery, as did I as a mum. I had not a single worry when I left her in their care. I have recently been offered a place at another nursery, which was initially my first choice, however, I will not be moving my daughter as I am so very happy with Hobby Horse.”

Parent, Oct 2022



ABOUT US

The Centre is owned and managed by Activate Learning and based at Banbury and Bicester College. Hobby Horse Children's Centre offers a safe and stimulating environment for your child.

We provide childcare for children between the ages of three months and 10 years. We operate a Playscheme for school aged children during the school holidays.

At Hobby Horse Children's Centre we offer 2-year-old funding as well as 3-year-old funding both 15 and 30 hours.

Please see fee structure sheet for the sessions and times we offer.

The Centre is staffed by fully qualified and experienced Early Years Practitioners. You can be confident that we will work closely with you, offering a fun and loving atmosphere, ensuring that your little ones develop into confident and independent individuals.



OFSTED

Ofsted rated the children's centre as Good in every area, in its most recent inspection (November 2021).

The report concluded:

- » Staff plan well how they deliver teaching so that children remember what they have learned.
- » Leaders and staff work well together to clearly identify what they want children to learn during their time at nursery.
- » Staff join in children's play enthusiastically, making good use of these opportunities to extend children's learning and understanding.
- » Children are curious learners, and they find the learning experiences on offer very interesting.
- » Staff are very caring. The warm and close bonds between children and staff are evident throughout the nursery.
- » Children are safe and staff supervise them closely.
- » Staff feel very valued which adds to the happy working environment.
- » Staff place a high importance on building strong and meaningful partnerships with parents and professionals.

“

Staff provide good levels of support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The manager ensures that additional funding is used effectively to provide the targeted support that some children need to reach their full potential.”

Ofsted, Nov 2021

Ofsted registration number: 133593



ADMISSIONS

Places at the Children's Centre are offered to students, staff of the college and the wider community.

The Centre Manager is responsible for allocating places. We encourage you and your child to visit as often as you'd like whilst making your decision to attend. When your child has been offered a place at the centre, we will arrange settling-in sessions for you and your child.



CENTRE HOURS

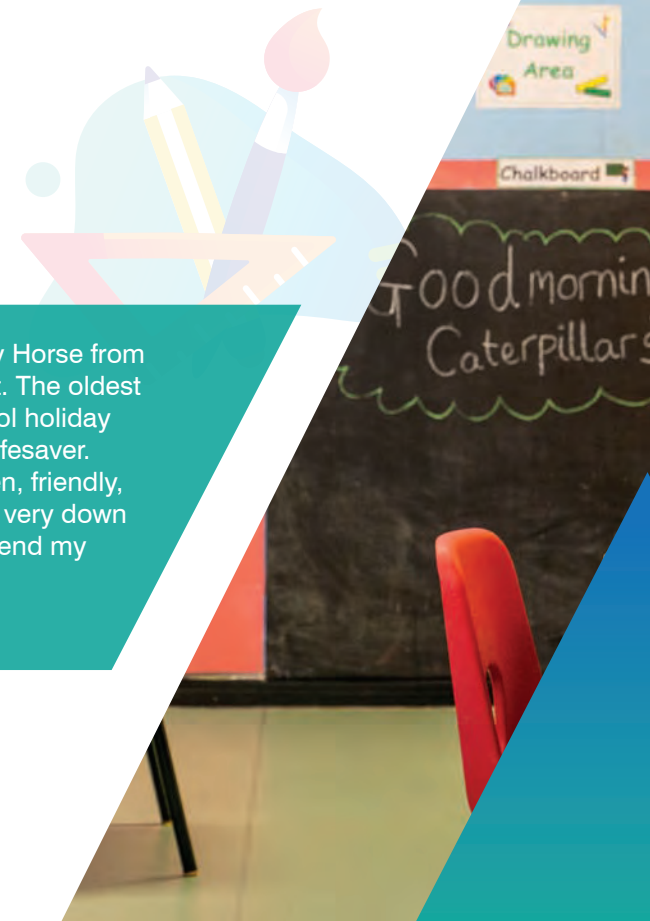
- ▶ Monday–Friday, 8.30am–5.30pm
- ▶ By arrangement, children can arrive early from 8am and can have a later finish time of 6pm. Early starts and late finishes need to be booked with the Centre Manager in advance. Please see the section on fees for the cost of this extra facility.
- ▶ Children must be collected by 5.30pm

PLEASE NOTE - To protect your child, we will only hand your child to people named on the registration form.

“

Both my girls have gone to Hobby Horse from nine months old. They both love it. The oldest now goes to Hobby Horse's school holiday programme which is a complete lifesaver. The staff are brilliant, they are open, friendly, welcoming, non-judgemental and very down to earth. You couldn't pay me to send my girls anywhere else.”

Ofsted, Nov 2021



MEET THE TEAM

Helen Collins - Centre Manager

Helen has overall responsibility for the Children's Centre. She holds an NVQ level 3 and 4 in Childcare and Education and has worked at the Centre since September 1992. She has experience of working with children in schools and nurseries, and a vast amount of experience of working with children with special needs and challenging behaviour. Helen is responsible for the welfare of the children, staff and students and is the overall Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) for the Centre.



Kelly Bidwell - Assistant Deputy Manager

Kelly has been at the Centre since July 2000. She holds a Diploma in Nursery Nursing qualification and a NVQ Level 4 in childcare. She is the Coordinator for the 3-5 Unit and has considerable experience of working with this age group. Kelly is also the joint Behaviour Coordinator and SENCO support for the Centre.



Katie Brain - Deputy Manager

Katie has worked at the Centre since July 1996 and holds an NNEB Diploma Qualification and NVQ Level 4 in Childcare. She has a considerable amount of experience of working with children from 0-4 years and supports the 0-3 Unit Coordinator as well as the whole Centre. Katie is also the Child Protection Coordinator and the SENCO support for the Centre.



Sarah Willis - Senior Nursery Nurse

Sarah has worked at the Centre since July 2001 after completing a Diploma in Childcare and Education. She has experience of working with children aged 1-3 years and is the Coordinator for the 0-3 Unit and joint Behaviour Coordinator for the Centre.



“

Staff are very caring. The warm and close bonds between children and staff are evident throughout the nursery, and especially so in the baby room.”

Ofsted, Nov 2021

All staff at the Centre have a commitment to staff training and updating their knowledge in childcare, which we feel is vital to maintaining the high standard of care we offer.

A HOME FROM HOME

The Honey Bee Room

Our baby room: from 3 months up to approximately 15 months

The room is made to feel like home, with an eating, sleeping and play area. We work in partnership with parents to ensure that a child's individual needs are met in a fun, safe and secure environment. In the babies' play area, we operate an indoor shoe policy.



The Busy Bee Room

Our toddler room: from 15 months up to approximately 2 years

This is a spacious room, offering a range of toys and activities that encourage children to develop their interests, learn new skills and play happily together.



The Caterpillar Room

Our nursery: children from 2 years to 3 years

The room comprises a large play area, offering fun and enjoyable activities throughout the day, allowing free choice and interactive play during each session.



The Butterfly Room

This is our pre-school room, and the children are from 3 years to 4 years

The Butterfly Room has defined areas of development, linking in with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Activities are provided to encourage independence ensuring that they are becoming more confident and school ready.



Parent,
Oct 2022

BRIGHT,
COLOURFUL
AND ENGAGING



Ofsted,
Nov 2021

WARM AND
CLOSE BONDS
BETWEEN CHILDREN
AND STAFF

OUR PLAYScheme PROVISION

The Fun Club

We operate a playscheme for children in full-time school, up to the age of 10 years and 11 months, in all Oxfordshire County Council school holidays.

Sessions must be booked in advance, please contact the Centre Manager for details of this provision.

Outside Play

The Centre has a garden with both a grass and playground area, enabling the children to use it all year round. In addition, we have a separate enclosed outside area just for the younger children. The garden offers children the opportunity to observe changes to their environment, look for mini beasts, and enjoy the vast outdoor equipment resources.



Children behave very well. They listen to what is asked of them and show care and respect for staff, each other and resources.”

Ofsted, Nov 2021

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

We work towards the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, seven areas of learning. Children are encouraged to participate in activities that are adapted for each child's individual need and developmental level.

The children have a variety of toys and resources available to them, that can be changed at the children's request. We aim to provide a fun and stimulating environment where children learn through play and share their culture, knowledge and experiences.

PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Each child is an individual and is always responded to sensitively and carefully by Centre staff.

Children are encouraged to care for one another, for the equipment and their environment, they gradually learn to share and take turns. If a child hurts someone else, they will be taken aside, talked to quietly and then encouraged to rejoin their group.

For further information, please refer to our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy.



Children benefit from a curriculum with a strong emphasis on developing their speaking and listening skills. Staff understand the importance to children of knowing lots of words and having the confidence to hold meaningful conversations. Staff skilfully thread this aspect of learning through the whole curriculum...the children are developing well into confident communicators.”

Ofsted, Nov 2021



MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

Light snacks are provided by the Centre during the morning and afternoon sessions. These will be nutritious and consider all children's particular dietary requirements.

- » All other meals should be provided by the parents and must be stored in a suitable container with a thermos pack clearly labelled with the child's name.
- » We encourage all parents to provide a healthy lunch with no fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars.
- » Children under 18 months can have homemade meals provided they contain no meat, fish, rice or egg products.
- » We can give your child a commercial baby food jar or packet containing clearly labelled instructions and ingredients.
- » Please discuss your child's individual requirements when you register.
- » The Centre is a Nut-Free Zone.



"My son is very happy here, the staff are very experienced and caring. He is excited to go to nursery, spend time with his friends and do lots of different activities. I'm very happy with his progress and the care he is receiving."

Parent, Sept 2019



The Centre
is committed
to working with

PARENTS AS
PARTNERS



HOW TO FIND US



BANBURY CAMPUS

A
Main reception
Advice and Admissions
The Employment Shop
Student Support
Learning Environment
Science Laboratory
English, Maths and Access to HE
Health and Social care, Childcare
and Counselling
Business Growth
Sport and Public Services
Learning Zones
The Salon

B
Engineering
Esports
Games Development and ICT
Business
Exams
Institutional Effectiveness

C
Main Hall
Restaurant
Foscote Conference Room
Executive Suite
Human Resources
Refectory
Foundation Studies
Wood Construction Centre
Banbury Studio Theatre
Students' Union
Faith Room
Group Admin
The Shop
Goods Inwards

N
Animal Management Centre

O
Estates and Facilities
College Nurse
College Counsellor

P
Hobby Horse Nursery
and Children's Centre

Q
Colin Saunders
Innovation Centre

Creative Arts Centre (F)
Creative Arts
Fashion Design
The Gallery

Media Studies Centre
Graphic Design
Media Studies
Photography

Motor Vehicle Centre
Motor Vehicle



APPLICATION FORM

Parent's name:

Child's name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Mobile number:

Child's date of birth:

Start date required:

Sessions required (Please state days and times)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

For office use only:

Date received:

Date telephoned client:

Viewing arranged: YES / NO

Date / Time of viewing:

Date information put onto computer waiting list:

Signature:

Important: You will be contacted on receipt of this application form and placed on our waiting list. This is not confirmation of a place at the Children's Centre.

Please return this form to:

Helen Collins
Hobby Horse Children's Centre and Nursery,
Banbury and Bicester College,
Broughton Road, Banbury,
Oxon, OX16 9QA
or email a copy to **hobbyhorse@activatelearning.ac.uk**