



NEW STARTER PACK





INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Ladybirds Preschool

Welcome to the Ladybirds family! We're so excited to have you join our school and community. Ladybirds has been running as a charitable pre-school in South Newbury for over 5 decades. Over this time the setting has developed from a small play group into one of Newbury's best loved pre-schools. Our passion for high quality, child led, early years education through play is seen in everything we do.

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - which means we are run by our members and have a board of trustees. We are always looking for people to get involved, whether to help with fundraising, join the board, share your skills or just visit to read a story - just contact the office for more information and to let us know how you'd like to help!



“

My son loves coming to Ladybirds - there are so many activities and resources, and he loves the outdoor area.

PARENT

“

I drive across town every day, I wouldn't send my child anywhere else

PARENT

The staff at Ladybirds are second to none, they care so much about all the children and are so welcoming, they are brilliant!

PARENT

“



Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Curriculum

Every day the children have a mixture of small group time and free choice play - exploring all the resources available to access the different areas of learning.

Our dedicated staff all observe and join in the activities, moving learning forward as they play!

- Physical activity - including our wonderful climbing and exploring equipment in the top garden
- Home Corner
- Construction
- Story books, sacks and other texts
- Mark making, painting, drawing and crafting
- Sensory Play
- Water Play
- Small World Toys: shop, hairdresser, vets corner, play food

"Visit our website to learn more about our curriculum"

and so much more!.....





Special Activities

We always follow the interests of the children and organise our curriculum around them. Every year we have various special events that help build confidence and competence in the prime areas as well as enriching their learning experience.

These include;

- Sports Day
- Christmas Play
- Visits from our community - this could be someone with an interesting job, cool animals, emergency services - whatever they are interested in!
- Stay and Plays - opportunity to be shown around pre-school by your child!

Look out for all the important dates and special events information in our termly newsletter and Facebook page!



Meet Our Team

All the teachers at Ladybirds work and play with all the children, but you will have a named key person who will get to know your child and your family best. They should be the first point of contact for you if you have any questions, and they will be the one who completes your child's tapestry observations and developmental checks.



Mrs Hart
Manager



Kath
Deputy Manager



Sue
Deputy Manager &
2's Team Lead

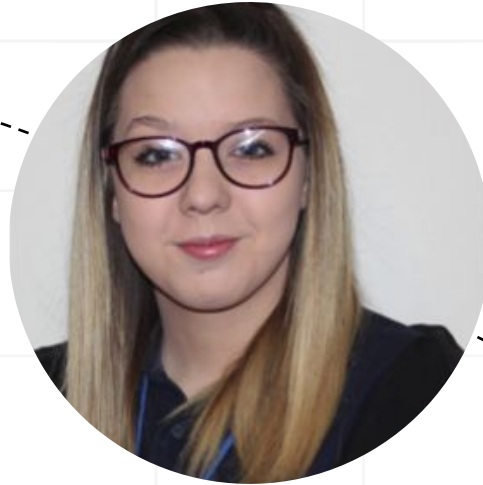


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Mrs Russell
Lead Early Years
Practitioner



Sophie
Early Years
Practitioner



Hayley
Lead Early Years
Practitioner





Getting Ready for Ladybirds Preschool

What to wear

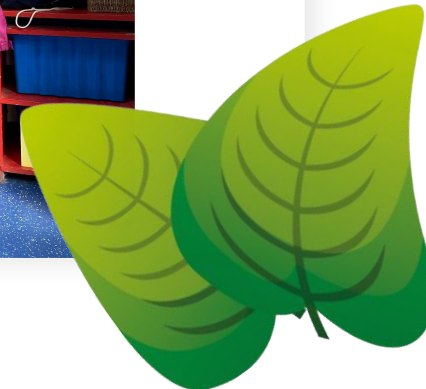
We have so much fun at Ladybirds...but it can get messy!

- Wear old clothes so it doesn't matter if you get a bit painty or wet!
- Loose fitting joggers or leggings, t shirts and zip up tops so you can practise taking off and putting on your own clothes
- Footwear that fits your feet, has closed toes and a low back – no tricky laces, sandals or high top boots please! You need to be able to run, climb and play all over pre-school safely! Welly boots can be kept in the cloakroom on rainy days.
- Warm clothes on chilly days and sun safe clothes on hot ones - shoulders should always be covered. We've got mittens and sunhats for you at pre-school but you'll need to bring your own woolly hat.



Ladybirds Bag

- We give you a special bag to keep at preschool.
- You should have at least one full change of clothes and a spare warm jumper.
- We also give you a wet/dry bag that we will use to send wet or messy clothes home.
- If you still use nappies you need to send in a supply for us to keep in your change basket.





Getting Ready for Ladybirds Preschool

Lunch & Snacks

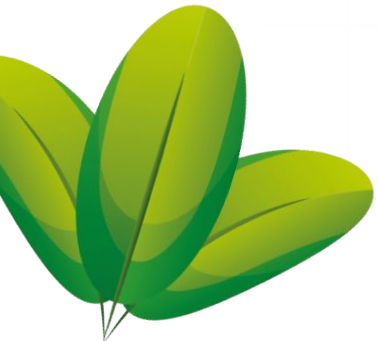
Healthy snack is available every session, fresh fruit, vegetables, crackers or breadsticks, milk and water.

- All lunches should be NUT FREE - no chocolate spreads either please. We will let you know if there are any other allergy notices for your class.
- Cherry tomatoes, grapes and cocktail sausages should be cut into quarters for safe lunchtimes
- Can you open your lunchbox and water bottle yourself? Why not practise before you come?



Sun Safety

We ask that all children apply a 30+ SPF sun cream every day between April - October, your skin can be damaged even on cloudy days and we always play outside!



TOP TIPS

Information for Parents



+ Drop Off

+ Pick Up

Drop off time for the morning session is between 9am-9:15am and between 11:50am-12pm for the afternoon. Do try to be on time, but if you are a bit late please ring the bell and we will let you in!

Pick up time for the morning session is between 11:50am - 12pm and between 2:40pm-3pm for the afternoon. We do love to give feedback at the end of the session for just a minute or two, but we do have to shut the gates promptly at 12pm to start lunch and 3pm so we can start cleaning and setting up for the next day.





Policies

You can access our full set of policies on the website [here](#) and will be given copies of some key policies at your induction. If you would like printed copies of any of our policies then please just ask.

Concerns or Complaints?

If you ever need to raise a concern with us please initially contact the manager. You will be given a copy of our complaints policy at your induction and you can find more information about what to do if you have a complaint along with answers to other questions you might have on our website [here](#).

Communication

We will communicate with you at pick up and drop off, via email and via text message alerts. In your enrolment information you are asked for consent for us to send you general emails and texts and you are able to add additional contacts too. Our website also has communication forms [here](#) in case you need to contact our trustees.





Security

We get to know you quite quickly, but in case you ever need someone else to pick up your child we use a password system that you set up in your enrolment pack. Please also let us know if you can that someone new will be picking up.

Parking

We strongly encourage families to walk to school if possible, but if you do drive please be considerate of our neighbours and park safely on the surrounding roads. Please do not drive your car down to the pre-school entrance or into the garages to keep our little ones safe!

Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory at pre-school, but we do ask you to let us know if your child is not going to attend their session for any reason.

You can let us know in person at pick up or drop off, email the office or leave a message on the answerphone. For more details please see our attendance policy.



Tapestry

We always give a little bit of feedback about your child's day when you collect so that you have some idea what they have been up to! We also use the online learning journal, Tapestry, to send home key observations of 'wow' moments during your child's time with us. These focus on different skills and key 'moments' of learning where we see progress and development happening, along with a description of what we noticed we will also suggest the 'next steps' we are looking out for.

We can send out group observations of particular events or activities the children have been enjoying, and pictures of general happenings at Ladybirds to keep you updated. Tapestry is a really effective way for us to share all this with you, and for you to share with your children, but it also works the other way too! As well as showing your children their observations and perhaps prompting them to tell you more about the people and activities they enjoy at Ladybirds we would encourage you to upload pictures, videos or just a brief sentence to let us know when you have a 'wow' moment at home!


Not only does this help us link their learning and development between home and school, but it also provides fabulous information for us to start conversations with the children about what they do outside preschool.






FUNDING

All children above the age of 3 are automatically entitled to 15 hours per week fully funded childcare. You do not have to apply. There are other funding options available for funded two year olds and 30 hour funding along with tax free childcare accounts and other payment options. All the information and application processes you need are found at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk If you need any help or advice with any of these applications, please ask!

 [FAQ EARLY LEARNING PLACES](#)

 [FUNDING FOR 2YRS OLDS](#)

 [HELP PAYING FOR CHILDCARE](#)

CLICK FOR MORE INFO



Contact Us

We know starting pre-school can feel a bit overwhelming!

Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you might have.

You can find lots more information about us on our website too!

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