



Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery Ltd.

## TODDLERS UNIT

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Thank you for coming to view the Toddlers Unit at Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery Ltd. We hope you enjoyed your visit and that you found your time here to be both informative and helpful. Here at Jolly Rodgers, we understand that choosing the best nursery for you and your child is a huge decision and that it can be difficult to take in all of the information given to you during your visit. For this reason, we decided to put together this booklet outlining everything you will have discussed during your viewing in a little more detail, allowing you to learn all about our nursery in your own time and to hopefully help you make the best decision for your family.

Should you have any questions or wish to pop in for a second viewing, please feel free to call us at any time and we shall be only too happy to help.

Toddlers staff.

## Inside the Toddlers Unit

Toddlers Unit ranges with children age between 2 yrs to 3 yrs old.

The staff to child ratio for Toddlers is 1:4. The Toddlers staff are:

All Toddlers staff are fully qualified childcare workers and all hold up-to-date Child Protection and First Aid qualifications. We fully understand what an important transition starting Nursery is for both you and your child and this is why we strive so hard to make the whole experience as happy and rewarding as possible for your child and as reassuring as possible for you.

Toddler unit has a maximum of 16 children with a ratio of 1:4, we would have 4 staff members within the room and we may also have a student present within the unit. As we a very spacious room we have 4 children at each activity or area i.e. sand, water, floor play, table top activities etc. We also have free play - times where the children can freely move around the room to whichever area they would like to play. We also offer a wide range of messy play, a few examples - shaving foam, soap flakes, whip, jelly, pasta - the messier the better. ☺ We have daily use of sensory room & role play room just across the hall.

Within Toddlers we work to a Daily routine which is included within booklet and it is also displayed on the door within Toddler's for everyone to see and for staff to follow. We also follow weekly plans which again are displayed within Toddlers. These plans relate to our theme for the month and if we have any special or extra activities planned. All plans allow for spontaneous daily child lead activities to take place and also to be observed. The nursery has CCTV in all rooms both inside and out and additional key coded access.

We work hard to create a 'home from home' environment for the children in our care and strive to make the transition from home to nursery as stress free as possible for you and your child by following a routine that they enjoy and are comfortable with.

### **Media Initiative for children respecting difference programme.**

We recently received training in the media initiative programme for 2 year olds and have introduced the persona dolls to Toddlers with great success.

### **Implementing the MIFC with younger children 2-3**

The focus for this age group of children must be on supporting emotional and social development through using the core resources of the MIFC particularly the persona dolls. The emphasis should be on supporting young children to understand and express their feelings. As young children are whole body learners, they should be supported to explore feelings and emotions in this way. The physical environment must allow for this. Children aged 2 should be able to express themselves physically and move freely indoors and outdoors. They should have space and opportunity to roll, jump, spin and dance whenever the mood takes them. Even before language, there is a vocabulary of gesture and vocalization, and a skill of reading facial expression, gestures, and body language of other people, of falling into their rhythms, that very young children develop. It is vital therefore that adult child interactions and the emotional learning environment are attuned to children's age and stage of development.

While it is positive that young children are exposed to diversity in the range of images in their environment, more complex work around looking at race, ethnicity and disability is better deferred to the pre-school year. While the Media Messages are an excellent resource for pre-school and school aged children, they are not an appropriate resource for two year old children where the caution is that they could be viewed passively as entertainment with children missing the key concepts. Persona dolls and the large feelings cube are a more appropriate and interactive for use with younger children.

A detailed Risk Assessment is carried out for the room and gardens on a daily basis to ensure that only the highest levels of safety and hygiene are achieved.

All staff members work closely with all of the children in our care. However, we do operate a Keyworker System within Jolly Rodgers. On starting in Toddlers, your child will be assigned their own keyworker who will be responsible for carrying out observations and compiling progress reports which help us to follow and record your child's development within nursery.

Observations are carried out on a monthly basis and used to compile a brief Progress Report which will be sent home to you every term. An example is included in this pack and contains a brief description of each area of learning. In the meantime however, you are welcome to speak to staff any time at all

about your child and we are always happy to answer any questions or help with any concerns you may have.

We also hold annual Parents' Evenings during which you are invited to come along and see what is happening within the unit, what we do here and have the opportunity to spend a little quality time with staff discussing your child's progress. We understand however, that parents are extremely busy so these evenings are not compulsory and should you wish to arrange a meeting with staff at a time that best suits you, you only have to ask.

We operate an Open Door policy at Jolly Rodgers and parents are welcome to drop in or call/email at any time.

## Monthly themes

Each month has a theme that is carried throughout the nursery with activities tailored to suit each age group. Monthly themes are as follows:

January

Shops & Opposites, Winter weather

February

Chinese New Year, Pancake Tuesday & Valentine's Day

March

Mother's Day & St. Patrick

Easter (if it falls this month)

Farm animals



April

Spring & Life Cycles

Easter (if it falls this month)

May

Space & Transport



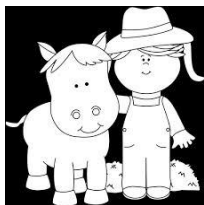
June

Holidays & the Beach

Father's Day

July

On the Farm, Zoo



August

Nursery Rhymes

Pirates & Princesses

September

All about Me & My Family, Mother's and babies

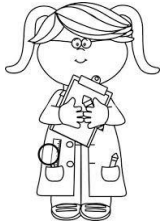
October

Autumn & Halloween



November

People Who Help Us & Road Safety



Guy Fawkes

December

Winter & Christmas



Songs, stories, arts & crafts etc. are planned around each month's themes. A more detailed plan for each month is displayed within each room and you may view this any time you are in nursery. Activities are then broken down further on a week by week plan and this is also displayed within each room. Each month, we choose a different colour to learn and play dough, water etc. are coloured accordingly.

### Learning through Play

Children learn through play and it is our aim to make the whole learning experience as fun and enjoyable as possible. Examples of the types of play we enjoy in Toddlers are as follows:

## Physical Play

Designed to encourage children's fine and gross motor skills

- Throwing, catching, jumping, running, climbing, games, table top activities, outside play

## Sensory Development/Messy Play

Encourages children to explore their senses through touch, smell, textures etc.

- Jelly, custard, play dough, sand, water, pasta etc.
- Baking activities
- Heuristic play - learning about natural materials through sight, touch etc.

## Early Maths

Activities designed to encourage Early Maths abilities such as counting, measurements, weights, size etc.

- Shape sorters, building blocks, sand/water (full/empty, light/heavy) etc. counting, games & songs

## Language & Communication

Uses various methods to encourage language & communication development

- Songs, stories, chat while playing, circle time etc.

Messy play such as play dough is made within the nursery so all ingredients are safe if the children put it in their mouths. Food colouring is used to colour the water.





## Outdoor Play

During the good weather, we encourage the children to be outdoors as much as possible for fresh air and exercise. Our gardens are safe, secure and age appropriate and are also used on a timetable basis. Sun cream is applied to each child and a gazebo is erected on sunny days so shade is provided if required. We also 'bring the indoors outdoors' with sand trays, a paddling pool and boxes of toys being placed in the garden for the children to enjoy.

## Snack & Meal Times

Breakfast is served from 7.30am - 8.30am with a range of breakfast cereal to choose from. Morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are also served within the kitchen. Lunch is freshly prepared each day by our cook. Fresh fruit is available throughout the day but we would have a fruit snack at 2.00pm each day.

A sample menu has been included with this booklet so you can see the type of meals and snacks we provide. A copy of the menu for each week is displayed on Toddlers door each week.

Should your child have any special dietary requirements, we will provide an alternative menu tailored specifically to match their individual needs. A record of each food a child cannot be given is placed within the unit and the kitchen to ensure all staff are made aware.

## Sleep Times



If your child still needs that little sleep during the day we do have a time for Toddlers to nap - 12.00 - 2.00.

Each toddler has their own little mat and a member of staff stays within the room and Toddler room has CCTV in operation at all times. If your child does not sleep or you would prefer if they didn't sleep they will have time in the role play & sensory room.

## Quiet Time

We have 2/3 'quiet times' each day. This is a time for children to calm down in between play times. During quiet time, we read stories to the children which can be a mix of theme related stories and old favourite stories. We also sing songs and encourage the children to sing their favourite song for the other children. We also have colour and number games to promote mathematical development and colour awareness.

## Toilet Training

Toddler room is where the 'fun' of potty training takes place 😊 when your little one's will make the change from nappies to pants. Once you feel your child is ready to start with potty training just speak to staff and we will work alongside you and advise as best we can.

At the end of each day, staff will take a few minutes to inform you of how your child has eaten and slept as well as their general well-being and what they did that day.

## Additional Activities

As well as spending time in the garden, we also like to take the children out for walks in our 4-seater buggies, which we are fully insured to do. We regularly walk to Wallace Park and to Duncan's Dam to feed the ducks.



Other activities include:

Library

Jo Jingles (weekly during term-time)

Visits from Debutots

Visits from Blackberry Farm

Looking after eggs until they hatch into chickens

Visits from the Firemen & Fire Engine

Visits from 'Mantella' - Zoo to you

Visits from Zoolab

Themed parties & fundraisers e.g. 'Rainbow Day' - make a wish charity

Children in need - PJ Day

Christmas Jumper Day

Slipper Day

Summer trip to Tannaghmore Gardens Farm

Pirates & Princesses Garden Party

Easter egg hunt

Halloween party

Christmas party including a visit from Santa and a gift for each child.

A monthly newsletter is added to our webpage [www.jollyrodgers.co.uk](http://www.jollyrodgers.co.uk) at the beginning of every month to keep you informed of any upcoming events, themes, activities etc. A paper copy maybe requested.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this booklet. We hope you have found it useful and informative and that it will help make your decision a little easier. Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any further questions at all. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Jolly Rodgers Toddler Staff

Jolly Rodgers Day Nursery Termly Child Review

Name ..... Unit.....

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

How your child is settling in, how independent they are becoming, their relationships with staff and other children, what they enjoy doing

Language & Communication Development

How their speech is developing, how they listen during stories, which songs they enjoy, any new words

Physical Development

If they start crawling, walking etc. fine & gross motor skills, climbing, dancing, holding a pencil, cup, spoon etc.

Cognitive Development

Early Maths activities, problem solving e.g. how to make a shape fit through a hole, how to use building blocks, carry sand etc

Staff Action

What staff will do to encourage development in each of the above areas

Parental Input

Your opportunity to add any comments/ideas you may have

Keyworker.....

Date.....Weekly Menu

Day		
Monday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Homemade vegetable soup and potatoes	Yoghurts fresh fruit
Tuesday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Cottage pie	Cheese & crackers Fresh fruit
Wednesday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Fish cakes, potatoes and mixed vegetables	Toasted pancakes Fresh fruit

Thursday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Chicken & broccoli bake with green beans	Apple crumble & custard Fresh fruit
Friday	Lunch	Afternoon snack
	Sausage casserole	Jam tarts Fresh fruit

Meals are served with a choice of milk/water

Drinks are available throughout the day. Fresh Fruit is available throughout the day.

Alternative meals supplied to suit dietary requirements.