

Welcome to Rotherhithe early years and day care and thank you for taking the time to look at our day care brochure.



We hope to have answered most of the questions you would ask in this brochure, but it is always best to visit the nursery so that you can see us in action and meet the staff. When you visit any other questions you may have will gladly be answered.

At Rotherhithe Day care we aim to provide a **safe, caring and stimulating** home from home for your child. A place where they can make friends, have fun and learn at the same time.

We have a strong education focus but acknowledge that for children to learn, they must first feel confident happy and settled.

We only employ **highly qualified, trained staff** whom enjoy working with children. We offer comprehensive training for all of our staff and ensure that everyone shares the same ethos. Everyone is welcome at our nursery and we try to be as flexible as we can with your working or studying hours.

Key persons: Every child is allocated a **key person** who will settle your child with you and have regular discussions about your child's learning and development. They will find out about your child's routines at home so that we can follow those and we will find out what your child likes to do, how they can be settled and any information you would like to share with us that would help your child to enjoy nursery.

Key persons will fill in the **daily contact book** if your child is under two. This records your child's day for you, itemising what they have eaten, activities they have enjoyed and when they slept and were changed. This is for you to comment in also to let us know how your child has slept the night before and if you have any requests or concerns.

Every child has a **learning story** which is accessed by our Tapestry app, that is completed by the key person. Parents are encouraged to contribute comments and observations of their children growing and developing. This is used to make assessments of children's learning and development so that appropriate activities can be planned to help them to develop and learn.

Education programmes:

We follow the early years foundation stage curriculum from birth to five and your child will have experiences and opportunities planned for them according to their age and stage of development.

We offer learning for the seven areas outlined in the curriculum, these are:

- Personal social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design

Throughout the nursery we have a strong focus on language and literacy. Our staff play and talk with the children and provide a stimulating learning environment and focus activities that encourage the children to talk. We also provide “talking tables” and are laying down the foundations for later learning, including a phonics programme for the three to five year olds.

We offer an outdoor curriculum that children can access throughout the day, planned carefully to meet all of the children’s needs and interests and extend their learning.

We also offer special sessions of **music** with our sensational music teacher, children’s yoga and **Forest school**: outdoor experiences in a secure garden in Southwark park where children have the opportunity to explore and discover nature, build dens, climb trees, pond dip and observe bees in their hive.



Forest school



Our family music workshop

Our partnership with the Tate Gallery

Inclusion and diversity.

Everyone is welcome at Rotherhithe and we have a truly diverse community. All of our work is led by policy and we ensure that children's identities, abilities and family life, culture and religion is celebrated and valued in our school and day-care. On entry to the nursery your key person will talk through all of your children's needs and interests and find out about you and your family. If a child is new to English we will ask you for some key words in the child's first language so that we can support them to access our curriculum and understand us.

Rooms

Baby room (Turtle class)

Children in this room are aged from three months to two years. They are offered a range of sensory experiences indoor and outdoor play. Heuristic play, stories and songs.

They have their own designated sleep area with individualised sleep baskets where they can sleep according to their own routine, and are encouraged to use them to rest in or have a quiet story when they wish. Key persons ensure babies have that special someone to bond with, who encourages them to explore the world from a safe and secure place.



This room is for the younger toddlers who still need the smaller family group but are now on the move and exploring the world and need some more challenging activities.

Older toddler /three and four year old room (Shark class)

Children in this room are aged between two and a half and four/five years.



Painting happens inside and outside. Some children prefer outdoor learning. We ensure that wherever they are all seven areas of learning is provided for.



Outdoor play in our "beech".

Climbing up our hill



Cooking together



children review their own learning in their "learning stories"



Watching chicks hatch



Messy play



Mark making



Each term children are taken out on trips connected to our "centres of interest". These first hand experiences provide stimulation for lots of talking, painting, drawing /mark making, reading and writing.

Here the children benefit from being a mixed age range. Children learn to care for each other as in a family and older children give the younger children something to aspire to. The older children enjoy being able to help the younger children and like to take on some responsibility for being good role models. In this room there are a greater range of activities, core activities and group times, moving children's learning on.

As children grow, develop and learn at different rates decisions to move children to an older room are made based on the children's needs and developmental stage. Children are supported through gradual transitions from one room to another when it is decided together by the nursery staff and the parents and the child, that they are ready to move to an older room.

Helping children to achieve their best

At Rotherhithe we carefully monitor children's learning and development. We track children's progress every half term and each term we review this and talk about children's next steps and how we can help them to achieve this. This is shared with parents and carers so that we can work together to help the children to be as happy and successful as they can be.

Parental involvement;

We encourage our parents to contribute to our setting in many different ways. You can

- **Come in and read a story before you leave your child in the morning**
- **Help us to plant some vegetables in our family planting beds**
- **Jot down interesting things your child say's or take photos of the things you do together over the holidays and weekends for your child's learning story**
- **Keep us up to date with your child's interests so we can include them in our planning**
- **Join our parent forum and help us make decisions about our nursery.**

Keeping your child safe.

We have robust safeguarding procedures in place at Rotherhithe that ensure your child's safety at all times.

All of our staff are checked, including any volunteers or students.

Food

A lunch is freshly cooked everyday on the school premises and brought over for the children. This is a planned and balanced menu offering healthy choices for the children. The menu for the week can be found on our website at /or you can ask a member of the office staff for a copy.

Throughout the day the children can self-access unlimited amounts of milk, water fruit and vegetables as snacks. Tea is served around four o' clock and this is provided by parents and carers. This must be brought in a labelled lunch box and the children sit together to have their tea. We are a healthy eating school.

Settling in

We like children to feel completely relaxed and safe with us. A settling period is essential for this. We encourage as many visits as you can manage before starting so that your child can become familiar with our environment, our routines and their key person. Children are then left for short times to begin with which are gradually increased until your child is settled. Each child is an individual and settling in is a negotiation between the parents, the setting and the child.

Opening times:

Monday to Friday 8am -6.00pm, term time only.

Session times for children receiving 15 hours free early learning:

AM 8.30-11.30am

PM 1-4pm