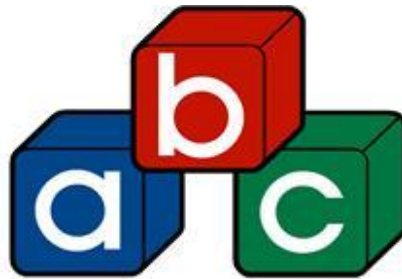


Westwards Nursery

Established in 1961



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INTRODUCTION TO WESTWARDS NURSERY

Established in 1961, Westwards Nursery offers a homely and well-equipped environment for children. Situated on Burton Street in Loughborough, opposite the High School, the nursery is set in a Victorian house on a pleasant street, not far from a local park. We also use of an area of woodland owned by Loughborough University for Forest School sessions. We are proud to offer Forest School sessions as we believe they have a significant effect on the social, physical and creative development of children.

In our last Ofsted inspection we were awarded 'Good' and in our last quality review by Leicestershire County Council we achieved a quality grade 1, the highest grade possible, with comments that we have an 'outstanding learning environment' where 'considerable effort and expertise have been employed to create attractive learning spaces.



Plenty of trips out- developing physical skills and confidence



Investigation area in the Rainbow room



Exciting outdoor experiences in all seasons and all weather!

Our staff team is highly qualified, caring and experienced, providing children with a nurturing environment. We believe that interaction and communication between staff and children as well as between children is vital, and offer a physical and social environment which is rich in opportunities for communication. Our team have the skills and training to ensure a nursery environment that nurtures each child and offers lots of opportunities to acquire the necessary skills for a smooth and happy transition to school. Most importantly, we make sure everyone has fun!

We have a wide range of high quality facilities and equipment and provide a caring and well resourced environment for children. Our last Ofsted inspection report stated that Westwards is '*extremely well resourced with good quality equipment*' and a '*good secure outdoor play space*'. We provide daily care from 7.30am-6.00pm for children from babies to pre-school age.

With a presence of 60 years we play an active role in the local community, putting on events for parents and using the local environment. Our range of events include visiting the local Care Home to perform the Christmas Nativity, Easter Event and a Woodland Nativity!



Our Woodland Nativity!

THE ENVIRONMENT AT WESTWARDS

OUTDOORS

The carefully planned outdoor environment at Westwards includes a large astroturf area and a canopy over part of the outdoor space, allowing access in all weathers. We believe this is very important for children's development. Children have access to outdoors for most of the day. Areas include space for messy play, dens and comfy areas, a large climbing frame and many resources related to all areas of learning. We are continuously developing our outdoor space to meet the changing needs of each group of children, for example we have recently added an outdoor area specifically for the babies.

INDOORS

The indoor environment at Westwards is tailored to suit each age group. Our well resourced classrooms are carefully designed to suit the group of children we have at the time, ensuring individual needs are catered for. The rooms are spacious with attractive, homely furnishings and high quality resources. We have a room specifically for physical play. We make good use of natural, recycled and open ended materials, which are beneficial for child development.



Observing our butterflies before they were released



Investigating and experimenting with water flow down bamboo channels



Painting activity in our bright conservatory

GARDENING AND COOKING

Children at Westwards plant, grow and harvest herbs, vegetables and flowers. The children take part in age-appropriate cooking, from mixing ingredients, to starting to understand how to follow a recipe. We've made all sorts of things, from jam, freshly squeezed orange juice, cookies and jam tarts, and even elderflower cordial!

THE NATURAL WORLD

We promote interest in the natural world by offering opportunities to observe nature, for example at Forest School and through experiences like watching frogspawn as it changes into tadpoles and then frogs. We keep the frogspawn in our outdoor area, and later release the froglets. We often spot older frogs in their natural habitat at Forest School! We've also watched as caterpillars became butterflies, which we released in our garden! We have nursery pets too- goldfish and Giant African Land Snails.



OUR AIMS

- To encourage children to be inquisitive, positive, adventurous and self-reliant, whilst being sensitive to the feelings of others.
- To provide the right environment, sensitive adult support and appropriate experiences to stimulate each child's curiosity, imagination and creativity.
- To ensure that the welfare and development of each individual child is of paramount importance.
- To work together with parents and carers to ensure each child's individual interests and abilities are catered for.



We feel that our excellent learning environment and highly trained staff ensure that we meet our aims. This is supported by feedback from the county council which states that;

- *Westwards has a 'warm welcome and inclusive atmosphere, where all children are highly motivated and engaged in their play'.*
- *Our 'outdoor learning area has been developed to a high standard'. Our development of all learning areas, both indoors and outdoors, is a continual, ongoing process.*
- *Our 'planning is based on...individual children's needs and interests'.*
- *Our 'partnership with parents is an area of strength and involves closely working together to observe and support learning'.*

THE LAYOUT OF THE NURSERY

The carefully planned layout of Westwards ensures a homely environment that caters for all age groups. The toddler room and baby room are on the ground floor, with direct access to the outdoors, while the pre-school children are based on the first floor and regularly access the outdoor area and Forest School. Each room is laid out and resourced to offer continuity and familiarity throughout the nursery, to support transitions between rooms, while at the same time catering for the needs of each age group.

MEALS

We offer breakfast for children attending before 9am, followed by milk and a healthy snack during the morning. Water is freely available throughout the day. We serve a two course cooked lunch at midday and provide a teatime snack at 4pm. Our cook provides freshly cooked, healthy, nutritious meals, cooked on site. Children learn to serve themselves food and drink at meal times, with adult support as required. Children eat in small groups with an adult, who models good manners and leads conversation. We believe this helps promote a healthy lifestyle from the beginning. More information about meals is displayed in the nursery and available on request. We can cater for specific dietary needs and welcome suggestions.



SESSION TIMES

Westwards is open from 7.30am to 6.00pm. The daily routine varies in each room because of the different ages of the children.

We offer a wide variety of sessions, from a minimum of two sessions (six hours each, 9am - 3pm minimum), through to five full days. We require a minimum of two days to give adequate opportunity for children to settle, develop relationships and to allow a reasonable minimum time for the activities which are planned for each child.

SETTLING IN

We offer a series of short settling in sessions which are free of charge. These are arranged according to your child's needs and your wishes. We also offer home visits where your child's key person can visit your child and family in your home environment, if you feel this would be useful. If any child has difficulty settling in, we support their family as appropriate to each individual case, to ensure every child feels safe and secure in our care.

HOLIDAYS

Westwards is open all year, to cater for parents with job commitments. Some children attend during term time, rather than all year round. The only weekdays we do not open are the bank holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year.



THE SUNSHINE ROOM

Babies up to 18 months - 2 years

Part of the
Sunshine Room
environment

Off on a
trip to
the farm!



The staff in our bright, airy baby room aim to ensure babies feel loved and emotionally secure by developing warm, personal relationships in homely, relaxed surroundings. Our interaction with the children is positive and encouraging, providing an ideal environment for babies to develop and learn by exploring and investigating their surroundings. The baby room has direct access to outdoors, including a decked area designed specifically for the babies. We often go on trips out into the local area.



Developing secure
relationships and exploring
the world with caring,
highly trained adults

We take great care to help babies settle in. We allocate a 'key person' to your child, who will usually feed, change and comfort them, and will be the person you share information with. Your child's key person will support your child in developing relationships with other babies and staff. Each child also has second key person to ensure continuity should their main key person be away. Staff record details of feeds, nappy changes, sleep and play.

Babies have the opportunity
to choose from a range of
activities designed to suit
their individual interests and
develop their natural
curiosity. A wide range of
books and toys are accessible.



We use natural materials
throughout the nursery, for
both resources and furniture.

Our quality review by the
county council states that our
use of 'accessible, open
ended, natural materials and
tools promotes the
characteristics of effective
learning'.



Messy and creative play

Music, songs, clapping
games, finger rhymes,
'messy play' and
outdoor experiences
are enjoyed by all.



Choosing books to look at in
a calm, relaxing environment

Each child's routine from
home is followed closely.
Parents provide nappies,
creams/lotions and clothing.
Parents supply feeds for
bottle-fed babies. All
children have their
belongings, including bedding,
kept separately. All toys and
equipment are cleaned and
sterilized regularly.

THE RAINBOW ROOM 18 months/ 2 -3 year olds.

Main Rainbow room
environment

Beginning to learn
about other cultures
and ways of life



The Rainbow Room is ideally equipped for toddlers. There are two rooms and a conservatory, as well as direct access to the all weather outdoor area.

Children move to the Rainbow Room between 18 months and 2 years, according to their individual needs. Their transition to the new room, as with all transitions in the nursery, is carefully prepared and supported. Children have time to visit and become familiar with their new room and new members of staff.

The indoor area offers a welcoming environment tailored to suit this age group. We provide a balance of free play and adult led activities to children. Activities are planned for each child, according to their interests and stage of development, in order to inspire them.

The Rainbow Room environment is carefully planned to encourage confidence and independence in an age appropriate way, for example accessing materials themselves, helping with tasks and learning to manage self-care routines.

We observe each child's development carefully, to ensure appropriate activities are made available, based on children's interests. This helps to ensure children are motivated and involved in their learning, setting them up to succeed at school.

We offer an inspiring, well thought out environment to encourage children to explore the space and interact with people and materials.



Cosy reading den for
calm story times

Our experienced staff help children become confident and independent, through encouragement and by modelling and supporting positive interactions as children learn how to interact with their peers. Every opportunity is taken to talk with children whilst demonstrating a co-operative, kind and caring attitude.

Plenty of
messy play
and art
activities
are
available!



Inspiring awe and
wonder through
use of natural
materials and
resources such as
light boxes



THE PRE-SCHOOL 3-5 years

Children move from the Rainbow Room to the Little Stars pre-school between 3 and 3 1/2 years old, depending on their individual needs. The pre-school has 2 well equipped main rooms, as well as an extra room used for physical play.



The pre-school children regularly go on trips and attend Forest School sessions. We make good use of our outdoor space, which offers many valuable learning experiences.



Our inviting home corner, above, has lots of interesting, real resources to engage children's interest. It also reflects a range of cultures from around the world.

Watching a steam train go past



The environment and activities in our pre-school encourage communication and positive interactions between children, supported by caring staff who are excellent role models.

The indoor space provides a stimulating environment that promotes the development of independence



Investigating water flow on the water wall - developing physical skills and understanding of the world through appropriate challenges

Throughout the nursery there are 'quiet areas' where children can take time out. The quiet areas are inviting and comfy with cushions, soft toys and books to enjoy.

Using role play resources from around the world in our home corner- developing understanding of the world



Malleable materials



Wooden block construction



Quiet relaxing area

Children choose from a wide variety of activities including construction, role play, books, singing and 'Beat Babies', dancing, music, water, sand, dough, paint and clay, digging, ride on toys, climbing and den making. Our high quality resources also include selections of natural materials, carefully chosen to engage and inspire children. Block play is a particular favourite of this age group, so we offer high quality resources to develop this interest.

THE CURRICULUM AT WESTWARDS

The range of indoor and outdoor activities we offer is carefully planned by our highly qualified staff, based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Children have opportunity to choose activities as well as being involved in more structured tasks guided by their key person and other staff. We believe children learn most effectively through active, hands on experiences, so our curriculum is delivered through planned, purposeful play based on observations of each child's interests and level of development. This helps build a secure foundation for learning. We offer a wide range of 'open ended' and natural resources to support children's development.

EYFS Prime Areas of Learning	EYFS Specific Areas of Learning
Physical Development	Mathematical Development
Communication and Language	Expressive Arts and Design
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Understanding of the World
	Literacy

For under twos, we focus on the 3 prime areas, on which all other learning depends, although experiences in the other areas of learning are also regularly available. Please see overleaf for more information about the 7 areas of learning. We are happy to provide more information about the EYFS.

MOVING ON TO SCHOOL

During their time at Westwards, we will encourage your child to become an independent thinker with a positive attitude to learning, to build a secure foundation for their future. We manage transitions carefully to support your child, and the transition to school is no exception. Pre-school children spend time learning and talking about school and what to expect. Our Quality Review by the county council states that we have '*well established transition preparation and procedures.*'



The EYFS curriculum continues during the first year of school. This means that our curriculum, planning and record keeping dovetails with that of your child's school. We work hard to maintain excellent links with local schools. We share detailed information about your child with school staff to help the move to school go as smoothly as possible. We welcome school teachers to Westwards to see children before they go to school. Your child's assessment records, showing what they have achieved at nursery, will be sent to their school. You will receive your child's 'Learning Journey', which your chosen school may ask to see.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children at Westwards have plenty of space and a wide selection of resources including 'soft play', bats and balls, bikes and balancing and climbing equipment. Close adult supervision enables children to safely negotiate physical challenges, developing and increasing skill and control in moving, climbing and balancing. Many physical challenges at Forest School mean that children develop strength and confidence. We have access to an covered outdoor area with an all weather surface, so physical activity is not affected by the weather. We even have a new physical play room with a beautiful woodland mural!



Using physical skills on regular trips out- climbing the Carillon Tower in Queen's Park.



Using spacehoppers in our physical play room



Climbing at Forest School- developing gross motor skills, self-confidence and self-esteem while having fun!

Using scissors and tools regularly, together with activities like using clay, tweezers, threading, sewing and constructing help develop skills, muscle strength and precision. This supports the development of fine motor skills and hand strength, which makes it easier for children to learn to write.



Using a knife to chop banana and strawberries for snack time



Whizzing down the slide on our play tower



Easter bunny visit for the easter egg hunt - fun in the bespoke mud kitchen

COMMUNICATION and LANGUAGE

Our staff are skilled at communicating with children and at supporting children to communicate effectively with staff and with their peers. We model positive language and a wide range of vocabulary. We make plenty of time to talk in a variety of social situations, including one to one conversations, chatting at lunch and tea, taking turns in group discussions and speaking in front of a small group, emphasising the value of listening skills. The learning environment is planned as a 'communication friendly space' with little areas and dens for children to go to and talk with friends.



Learning about effective communication in fun ways-following instructions during parachute games



Communicating and working together to achieve tasks that cannot be done alone



A 'communication friendly space' in the outdoor area

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We support children as they develop confidence, self-respect and a positive attitude towards learning. They are encouraged to work and concentrate independently and also to take part in group activities, sharing and co-operating with other children and adults. Through these activities, conversation and practical example, children learn acceptable ways to express their own feelings, understand the difference between right and wrong and have respect for the feelings, views, beliefs and cultures of others. We help children to prepare for school by encouraging independence in dressing, toileting and at mealtimes, pouring their own drinks and serving their own food.



Learning about different cultures in interesting ways



Enjoying cooking Easter treats - teaches turn taking and sharing in a fun way



Developing interpersonal and social skills during an outdoor lunch

MATHEMATICS

Our knowledgeable staff support children as they develop understanding of mathematical concepts. We offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities, both indoors and out, for children to explore and practice their skills. The concepts of matching, ordering, sorting and an understanding of comparative language such as 'bigger' and 'more than' are introduced in practical, meaningful contexts and through games. We use songs, rhymes and games to help reinforce important concepts like addition and subtraction. We offer many opportunities to learn about and use patterns and shapes. Problem solving approaches are promoted by staff while children are playing, model making or using construction materials: 'How can we make that fit?' 'I wonder what will happen if we do that?' 'Shall we try it?'



Using everyday opportunities for maths- counting ducks in the water



Investigating concepts in meaningful ways- whose dinosaur can get highest up the tree?



Using inspiring, tactile natural resources for counting and sorting



Investigating freezing

UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Westwards offers an excellent environment for children to observe, explore, investigate and experiment. Our outdoor space, opportunities for gardening and observing growth and change, and space for den making and large scale constructions all contribute to children's understanding of the world.

We go on walks around the local area and on trips further afield in a mini-bus. Our Forest School trips are invaluable for supporting children's knowledge of the natural world. Computers, cameras and programmable toys are available to the children along with a wide range of resources for experimenting with, to explore concepts like light and dark, temperature, magnetism and gravity.



Handling our pets



Riding a tractor at the farm!



Growing and caring for plants



Fantastic foam play

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Westwards provides a wide range of materials and resources to allow children to make creative choices and express themselves individually. Art equipment, including paint, glue, crayons, natural materials and various inspiring artefacts afford many opportunities for the exploration of colour, shape and texture. Throughout the day there are opportunities to use imagination in art, construction, role play and music. Children have plenty of chance for creativity at Forest School, using all the natural and open ended materials!



Large scale painting outdoors



Our art areas have a wide range of accessible resources to encourage independence and creativity



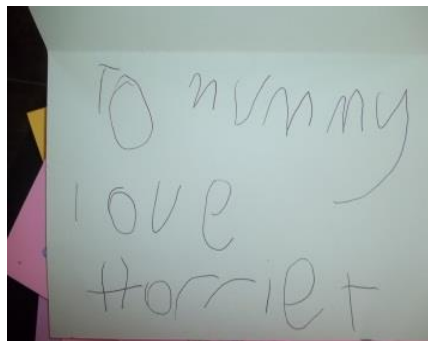
Decorating junk models

LITERACY

Children are given lots of time to listen and respond to stories, songs and rhymes, to talk about their experiences and to make up their own stories. They experiment with sounds and rhythms and learn to link letters with sounds. Well stocked, freely accessible book corners give every child the opportunity to become familiar with books, to handle them and be aware of their uses, for reference and as a source of stories and pictures. We start with large scale mark making to develop children's interest and muscle strength, to support the development of good early writing skills when each individual is ready. A mark making table with a range of crayons, pens and chalks, envelopes, diaries etc. encourages the development of handwriting skills. Role play areas are equipped with pencils and clip boards so that writing can be used in 'real' situations.



Choosing to mark make with friends



Making marks for a purpose and seeing adults writing too.



Enjoying stories in small groups or one-to-one

FOREST SCHOOL AT WESTWARDS

Forest School is an inspiring type of education that builds children's social skills, confidence, creativity and resilience.



Enjoying and exploring the woodland- happy children in a natural environment



Children at Westwards have freedom to try out ideas and follow their own interests in a natural, ever changing environment at Forest School. This is something that many children don't get chance to do very often.

In a world where children spend increasing amounts of time indoors and using technology, it's important that children have opportunity to play freely and engage with the natural world.

We have now been running Forest School sessions for a while and it is proving very popular with the children! Small groups of children visit the nearby University woodland regularly.

Exploring construction and tying knots



Children at Westwards use real tools in a safe, controlled way under the guidance of Forest School trained staff, to develop self-esteem, physical skills and communication skills



Using a bowsaw to cut hazel rods for den building



Blowing on an ember- at Forest School we sometimes use fire to cook or to warm up drinks, under the close supervision of a trained leader.

FEES

The monthly fee per session (from 1st April 2022) is shown below. For example, attending two x 10 hour days per week is £490 per month. (2 x £245). The following costs will be applied per day, over a month's attendance.

7.5 hour day (for example 8.30 till 4)	£ 213 per day over a month
8 hour day	£ 220
8.5 hour day	£ 228
9 hour day	£ 235
9.5 hour day	£ 240
10 hour day	£ 245
10.5 hour day	£ 248

The full-time monthly fees will be £1005 (10 hour day) and £1025 (10.5 hour day). For younger children who are not in receipt of funding the following rates will apply,

6 hours (9 till 3)	£ 187 per month per day
6.5 hours	£ 197
7.0 hours	£ 207

For 3 and 4 year old funded children the minimum attendance is 2 days of 7.5 hrs. Younger children may attend for 6 , 6.5 or 7 hour days (latest start time is 9am) but must increase to 2 x 7.5 hour days when they start to receive government funding (see page 16).

EXTRA HOURS OR DAYS

The price for extra hours is £8 per hour. Extra days are £56 per day. The hourly rate is charged unless the daily rate is lower. Any extra lunches charged at £4. We cannot guarantee there will be space for children to attend for extra days, but will do our best to accommodate you.

FULL TIME MONTHLY FEES

10 hour days from either 8am - 6pm or from 7.30am - 5.30pm, five days per week: £1005
10.5 hour days from 7.30am - 6pm: £1025

TERM TIME FEES

Term time only places are available. Term time means that children attend for 38 weeks of the year. This does not include attendance at nursery on teacher training/inset days. These must be paid for separately. Term time places are charged at monthly rate for 10 months of the year with no fees payable in July or August.

LATE COLLECTION FEES

For every child collected after 6pm a charge of £5.00 for every 5 minutes up to quarter of an hour will be incurred. After the first 15 minutes the charge is £5.00 for each subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof. This is paid to the staff on duty.

HELP WITH FEES

You may be eligible for :

- Child tax credits or working tax credits
- Childcare vouchers
- Government funding for all 3 and 4 year olds and some 2 year olds (see overleaf).

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

Your employer may run a 'salary sacrifice' scheme where you agree to have part of your salary paid in childcare vouchers. This reduces the amount of tax and NI that you pay. For more information please telephone the tax credits helpline on 0845 300 3900, visit the Inland Revenue website on www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk or Leicestershire Early Years Information Service on 0116 305 6545. Both parents can claim this.

FUNDED HOURS

Children aged 3 and 4: children become eligible for funding from the term after their 3rd birthday. The current funding for 15 hours or 30 hours per week covers basic childcare for 38 weeks per year. All children this age are entitled to 15 hours funding. Some children are entitled to the extra 15 hours. To check eligibility, parents/carers have to create a Government Gateway account and provide their details. This has to be done each term. Parents receive a code which must be given to the nursery to validate.

Government funding is the same for all nurseries, regardless of quality and grading. This includes settings with up to 50% of staff unqualified. As funding covers only basic childcare, Westwards usually makes a supplementary charge to cover costs such as food and drink, exceptionally well qualified staff and our commitment to extra curricular activities e.g. Forest School. If you wish to see our policy on this, please ask the office.

Children aged 2: some children may be eligible for funding. The criteria are similar to the requirements for accessing free school meals. Please phone Leicestershire County Council (LCC) on 0116 3056208 to see if you are eligible.

Please note, LCC require parents to sign a 'statement of undertaking' and give us a copy of their child's birth certificate. In some circumstances (regularly missing sessions, or taking long holidays totaling more than half of the term), LCC may claim funding back. Should this happen, parents are required to pay the nursery the sum that LCC claimed back.

RESERVING A PLACE

A payment is required to reserve a place. This is a non-refundable payment of £50, paid when you return your enrolment form and copy of your child's birth certificate.

PAYMENT

Fees are payable monthly, in advance, by the 10th of the month. There is a late fee charge of £50. Credits are not given for non-attendance. One month's notice is required for changes to hours, or of any child leaving the nursery. We average the fees across the year so that the fees are the same each month, helping you to plan financially. Please note that failure to pay fees by the 10th of the month in which they become due will result in you being asked to keep your child at home until overdue fees are paid in full. You will still be billed for your child's hours in this case. If you have difficulty paying fees, contact the office to arrange a payment plan.

OUR STAFF

Westwards Nursery opened in 1961 and has developed steadily over the years. The aim has always been to provide high quality care and education in a homely setting. Our staff group is vitally important in attaining this goal and we are proud that many staff are long-serving and highly qualified.

We value training and encourage all staff to work towards higher qualifications and attend regular in-house and off-site training to continually develop their skills. All of our childcare staff have first aid qualifications, basic food hygiene certificates and fire awareness certificates. We regularly update our team's knowledge of safeguarding.

Ofsted graded us 'Good' at our last inspection. We were awarded the highest level quality award by Leicestershire County Council, and the report commented on *'excellent practice facilitated by supportive key persons and practitioners, who demonstrate a good grasp of child development and knowledge of how children learn best'*.

We are very proud of our highly qualified staff team, many of whom have been with us for a long time. We have numerous staff with Level 5 and 6 qualifications, including degrees and Early Years Professional Status. We also have Forest School trained staff.

Many of our staff have children who attended or currently attend the nursery, for example, Anna who has been with us since 1998. Some of the staff came to the nursery themselves as children!

If you would like more details about our staff team, their qualifications, or their ongoing training, please contact the office.

ENQUIRIES

If you would like to make an appointment to visit the nursery, please telephone Westwards office on 01509 214551 or email westwardsnursery@btconnect.com

