

Saplings Nursery



Initial Information for Parents

Saplings ... where children play to learn



Welcome to Saplings



Saplings is owned privately by Linda Davies, a trained nurse, midwife and health visitor, Linda opened the nursery in December 1998 to set high standards for providing day care services to parents of young children. The nursery grew from strength to strength very quickly, requiring an extension in 2001 for a designated preschool unit. Saplings subsequently relocated to Henham, and saw all of the staff and largely all of the parents and children at the new location in February 2007.

Linda retains active responsibilities in the nursery on a daily basis. The staff are professionally led by Michelle Barker, who began at Saplings as a newly qualified Nursery Nurse back in 1999. Michelle holds a BA Hons. Early Years and is our lead professional in the setting. She is supported by Debra Roach, who holds a Foundation Degree in Early Years and leads the Preschool team. Debra is also our Forest School Leader. Kayleigh Mulvey is Deputy Manager and is qualified to Level 4 in Early Years; Jess Boyten has SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) responsibilities, alongside Diane Gould and Michelle Naylor. Louise Fisher and Cheryl Rae have ENCo (Equalities Named Co-ordinator) responsibilities.

We had been an outstanding setting, following an Ofsted inspection in July 2010. Then in January 2015 following another routine inspection we were judged outstanding once again.

In 2014 we open our Forest School project in a woodland situated very close to the nursery, adjacent to Saplings. Preschool children initially spent one morning a week in the woodland exploring and discovering new knowledge and challenges. We have since extended this opportunity to three sessions a week to enable the majority of children to gain valuable experience in the woodland setting.

Please refer to a more comprehensive Parent Handbook available from the website that will outline much more than the limitations of this brochure.

We look forward to meeting you soon

From Everyone at Saplings!

Our Mission



To provide high quality services to parents and their children that is affordable, flexible and unique



To offer an environment that represents home from home for the children, where there is freedom and happiness

To maintain high standards of professionalism among staff and set a benchmark for quality in the locality

To maintain high standards of safety, health and well-being for everyone who enters the environment of the setting

Approach to Care & Learning

If this is your first time of seeking a nursery for your child, we understand how you might be feeling and are happy to listen to your questions or anxieties. We offer a home visiting service before your child starts at the nursery to help you prepare for the first day.

We believe that play underlines much of a child's learning, it is a powerful motivator, encourages children to be creative, to develop their own ideas and express themselves. This lies at the heart of the Saplings philosophy; your child will be offered progressive, stimulating opportunities to explore, experiment, talk, listen, observe and question, meeting all of the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012) requirements.

Our services to parents are all inclusive, everything is provided for your child, including milk, nappies, food and outings.

Our Commitment



What We Do Best

We meet high standards in providing quality care and education for babies, toddlers and preschool children

Our environment is homely, comfortable and welcoming; parents and children feel happy and relaxed. We also create a stimulating, caring and safe environment for all children to enjoy. We recognise that children are unique and their needs are paramount and that parents are partners. Sharing between nursery and home is encouraged and as we review our practice, we continually add new and improved ways of communicating with parents and carers

"I cannot speak highly enough ... it should be used as a benchmark for other nurseries." -Tina P.

How We Do Our Work

We assess how young children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. We use information from observations, photographs, from parents and the children themselves. This is documented in a personal Learning Journey, where contributions from home are actively sought. Periodic summative assessments are written, for younger babies and children more often than for preschool children and parents of two year olds are given a written 2 Year Progress Check which outlines three prime areas – physical, social & emotional and communication & language areas of development

Your Options



FULL DAY CARE

Primarily Saplings is Registered as a private day nursery offering full day care for working parents / carers. Open Monday to Friday for 52 weeks of the year 7.30am – 6.30pm. The number of days you choose is up to you, but the minimum is one day or two half days.



SESSIONAL CARE

If you do not require full day care, you may prefer to opt for our Sessional Care options. We offer the following shortened hours: 5.5 hours, 6.5 hours, 7 hours and 8 hours. Both Full Day Care and Sessional Day Care are offered all year round.



GOVERNMENT FUNDED

In addition to the above, we are registered with Essex County Council to provide 2 year old and 3 – 4 year old government funded places. 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, these places are available entirely FREE of CHARGE to parents, term time only

Discover More



You can find us online by visiting saplingsnursery.co.uk. There you can discover more about us, download documents including our full fee structure for the current year, read testimonials from other parents and learn more about what your child will gain from belonging to our Saplings family during their early years

Our services are all inclusive, you will never be asked to pay additionally for anything we offer.

Parent Mail

We work hard to keep parents regularly informed and encourage parents once they have registered to sign up for this FREE service. Primarily you would be contacted via email, but if you subscribe to our SMS service too, you will also receive texts in an emergency.

By switching from printed communication we address in a small measure consideration for the protection of the environment.

Facebook

You might also like to follow us on Facebook and read about any up to date news and events through our [Facebook Page](#)

Once you register as a parent at Saplings, you might also like to join our 'closed' Facebook Group, where additional information is offered to dedicated parents who choose to join, where we publish our own articles and share information from other relevant organisations

Our Services



TO CHILDREN

The children are our primary focus. We take active steps to ensure their environment is safe and stimulating. We believe effective learning means playing and exploring, that motivation comes from active learning and developing skills essential for creativity and critical thinking



TO PARENTS

Communication with parents also lies at the heart of our philosophy at Saplings. Aside to the services of Parent Mail and Facebook, we do our very best to involve and engage with parents daily. In addition we hold Parents Evenings, practical workshops and fun days that will enhance your experience with us



TO STAFF

Our staff teams are our greatest asset, without whom our Services to parents and children would not be possible. We boast of longevity in service through high levels of staff retention and above average ratios of staff to children. All Saplings staff are fully committed

Early Home Learning



By the time your child reaches the age of three his or her brain will have developed from 25% size at birth to 80%?

This means that your child's brain is developing at an incredible rate during the first three years of life. The brain doesn't automatically grow, it develops in different ways depending on the experiences of daily life.

All the small things you do with your baby or young child, like cuddling, chatting, singing and playing make a difference. They're quite literally the building blocks for your child's confidence, learning and security as they grow older. Your choice of nursery therefore becomes a very important decision.

We will

Listen to what you have to say – about your experiences and feelings as a parent, difficulties you may be experiencing as a family and your view of what will help you and your child.

Respect you and your family – families come in all shapes and sizes with different cultural traditions and there is no one right way to bring up children.

Find out what help and information you and your family need and let you know about activities and services that are available.

Help you to support your child's learning at home by offering ideas of things you and your child can do together - and you can borrow from our Lending Library of resources without the need for you to spend a lot of money.

Discuss concerns about your child's health and development and let you know how to access specialist help if it is needed.

What To Do Next



If you are looking for home from home, professional care and education for your baby or child, you have found the right place.

- ☑ Book an Appointment to view the nursery
- ☑ Check out our current vacancies
- ☑ Plan Early to avoid disappointment
- ☑ Download [Choosing the Right Nursery](#) from our website to assist you in finding the right nursery for you and your child

Our Location

We are located exactly 1 mile on leaving Elsenham village travelling in the Broxted/Thaxted direction on the B1051. Ignoring the village sign for Henham on the left, TAKE THE NEXT LEFT TURN onto a farm track adjacent to Pledgdon Barn. Saplings is approximately 120 yards on the right. The drive is one way and on entering the car park you will face a white house with a large front garden unmistakably organised for young children. Please make your way to the front entrance facing the front garden.

Contact Us

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Notes