



Our Mission and Aim

The staff at Acorns are qualified and experienced to provide high quality care for your child throughout their time with us. Staff work closely together as a team to provide a happy, secure, caring, stimulating learning environment, which in turn will enable your child to flourish to their true potential through their early years, making the transition to school an easy process.

All children are treated and respected as individuals, with varying needs which will be met through our daily programme. Parent/carer relationships are important to establish, this enables information to be passed and anxieties to be discussed, this is where the key worker system proves a valuable tool. If at any time a parent has a concern our open door policy enables the parent to have free access to staff.





Birth to three years provision

Acorns provides a stimulating and caring nursery environment for children under the age of three. Qualified nursery staff strive towards providing a suitable setting for your child, the room offers a warm welcoming and relaxed home from home environment where your children's routines from home can be continued providing a happy transfer into nursery.

Each child has their own Key person who is responsible for settling your child in during visits and monitoring development and planning of individual activities. You will be introduced to your child's key person during your settling visits.

Parents are asked to provide their children with nappies, spare clothes and any other essential items for their day.

The 0-3 years room operates under the Early Years Foundation Stage which is the Government's guidelines and regulations for children in early years care and education. These are based around six areas of learning and within the nursery these are used to develop children's observations, assessments and planning.

Areas of learning

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication Language and Literacy**
- **Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy**
- **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**
- **Physical Development**
- **Creative Development**

This is all achieved by planning activities and experiences and offering them through our continuous provision and routines.

Nursery Routine

8.30 -11.40 Continuous provision and play

Continuous play is offered throughout the day, children are given opportunity to participate and activities are differentiated for all ages.

Planned activities for all children are provided by the children's key person. Activities are varied during each session to provide the children with meaningful and purposeful experiences.

The activities are based upon the children's own individual interests and these are achieved through observations made by the children's key person.

10.00-10.40 Snack Time

All children are provided with an adequate healthy snack mid-morning, this is offered as an open snack time for when children are ready, staff note when children have eaten to ensure children have had a snack and drink.

Bottles and babies' snacks are provided according to the child's individual routines and needs.

After snack we sit together for a short circle time, where we read a story and sing songs together.

11.40-12.00 Physical activities and get ready for lunch

During this time we try to go outside (if we have not already) or provide another planned physical activity.

12.00-1.00 Lunch time

Children have lunch together in the baby room, they are encouraged to sit at the table with each other and an adult to provide a good role model whilst they eat their lunch. Older children are encouraged to be independent and feed themselves with a spoon, fork or with their fingers where appropriate, but help is still given when needed.

We encourage all children to eat as much as possible but do not force the issue if they have had enough or do not like what they have been given . We will inform parents on how well they have done at lunch time.

If a child is asleep over lunch time we will keep the lunch and it will be offered when they wake up.

High chairs are provided for babies who are sitting and baby chairs are also used for babies who are weaning.

All children are also provided with either their own drinks or a nursery drink of water with their lunch.

A full nursery menu is available on the nursery notice board.

1.00 - 4.30 continuous provision and play

Continuous play is provided from the planning and new activities are set out. Planned activities are set out for the children by their key person. We will also play outside again during the afternoon session.

3.00 -3.40

An afternoon snack and drink is provided. Babies' bottles and snack are given according to their own individual routines. If children are asleep the snack is saved for when they wake up.

4.30 Tea and quiet time

At this time of day we tidy up and sit down and have our tea or snack provided from home. When the children are finished they are able to go and play or have quiet stories before they go home.

Nappies are checked and changed regularly throughout the day, all changes are recorded on a chart.

Children are offered rest and sleep when they need one and can have their own comforters if required.

Children are offered drinks throughout the day as well as at snack and lunch time.



Three to Five Years Provision

The 3-5 years room provides your child with a stimulating, fun learning environment where activities are carefully planned and implemented through play within the six areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the Governments guidelines and regulations for children in early years care and education. This is regulated through Ofsted who make regular on the spot inspections and the nursery has continuous links with the Early Years Advisory Team. Inspection Reports are available on request at the nursery or www.Ofsted.gov.uk . Government funding is available to all 3 and 4 year olds the term after they are 3.

Children have full access to a wide range of carefully planned activities to promote their learning and skills, as well as supporting their emotional, social and spiritual needs.

All children have their own key person this helps to support children when settling in to nursery, hourly visits can be arranged to help your child settle before they start. The key person carefully observes your child and builds their own development records through the use of photography and written observation. This ensures that all individual needs are met and supported. Transfer records are completed when your child leaves to go to a new setting.

Three to five years Routine

8.30-10.15 Free play

A variety of activities are set out for the children to choose to play with, for example:

- Puzzles
- Construction
- Home corner
- Sand/water
- Easel painting
- Home corner

10.15-10.50 Snack and group time

At this time of day the children are offered a healthy snack and a choice of milk or water to drink, for example:

- Fresh fruit
- Cheese and crackers
- Cereal

Group time gives the children opportunity to sit together and listen to a story and the staff member will encourage the children to participate in conversation about events and activities that are going to happen during the day. The information gathered is recorded on the board.

10.50-11.40 Planned activities

At this time of the day the children are encouraged to take part in planned activities these can be based on the theme of the week or an ongoing project for example:

- Work in their individual books
- Creative activity
- Lotto games
- Graphics table

11.40-12.00 Physical Activities

Before lunch the children participate in a physical activity, for example:

- Singing and dancing
- Play outside
- Explore an outside environment
- Music and movement

12.00-1.00 lunch time

At lunch time the children can have a nursery cooked lunch or they can bring a packed lunch. The children sit together with members of staff. They are encouraged to have good table manners and staff act as positive role models.

1.00-2.45 Planned Activities

New activities are set out for the children, for example :

- Cooking
- Computer
- Creative
- Audio tape

2.45-3.15 Group and Snack time

The morning routine is repeated

3.15-4.00 Free play

New Activities are set out and the children can also choose their own activities to play with.

4.00-4.20 Quiet Activities

At this time of day the children take part in musical or story activities, for example:

- Story tape
- Singing
- Musical instruments

4.20-5.30 Tea time and quiet activities

At this time of day the children can have their tea or a snack provided from home. Afterwards they are encouraged to have a quiet play or read stories *before* they go home.

Our days are flexible and we use our whole environment as a learning tool , on occasions we change our routines to gain new experiences, for example:

- Nursery visits
- Outings
- Special occasions



Thank you for your interest in 'Acorns' we hope the foregoing information has answered your questions, however should you require any other details please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss these.

To arrange a visit please call **Barnstaple (01271) 329936**

We look forward to meeting with you.

Opening times:

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm

Open all year

Excluding bank holidays and Christmas week