SHINE

S – safe
H – happy
I – interested
N – nurtured
E – engaged

explore engage enjoy excite

Prospectus 2026 / 27

Manager Joanne Whatley

Chair Alison McMahon

Treasurer Sherri McAra

"Children's emotional well-being is fostered by staff who nurture children's confidence and successfully support children to reach their next steps in their learning."

OFSTED, 2020

OUR PRE-SCHOOL

Pre-school name: Little Apples of Bramley

Address: Village Hall, The Street, Bramley, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 5BP

Telephone: 07598 588460

Visit: www.littleapples.org

Email: manager@littleapples.org

Our Ethos:

At Little Apples we believe that the right start builds happy, active learners for life. To achieve this the educators and the environment here need to help the children to

S – safe

H – happy

I – interested

N – nurtured

E – engaged

SHINE

We offer your child:

- An aspirations-driven approach to helping each child maximise their potential
- Individual care and attention made possible by a high ratio of adults to children
- Fun and friendship with children and other adults
- The support of a personal key person
- Opportunities for you and your family to be directly involved, in the activities of the group and in your own child's progress.

Little Apples offers education and care for children below school age and over the age of 2 years. We offer a flexible range of start and finish times.

Start and finish times options				
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday			Tuesday times	
Start times	Finish times		Start times	Finish times
8.30	12.00		8.30	12.00
8.45	1.00*		8.45	12.30*
9.00	2.00*		9.00	
10.00	2.30*			
11.00	2.45*			
12.00	3.00*			

***If your child is with us between 12 and 1, we can provide lunch at a cost of £2.50 per day. If you prefer, your child can bring a packed lunch. (Lunches are ordered half termly in advance)**

FEES

Children are eligible to claim 15 hours free pre-school under the EYE Grant scheme from the term after their 3rd birthday.

Some 2, 3 and 4-year-olds qualify for 30 hours free and/or tax free childcare and some 2-year-old children are eligible for 15 hours free pre-school under the EYE Grant Two year old Early Learning Offer. To find out if your child may be eligible, visit: or https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education

From September 2026 our fees will be:

3 and 4-year olds - £6.25 per hour. 2-year-olds - £6.75 per hour

(These are reviewed every September.)

Fees are payable half-termly in advance and reduce from the 2-year-old rate to the 3 and 4-year old rate for the half term after your child's 3rd birthday

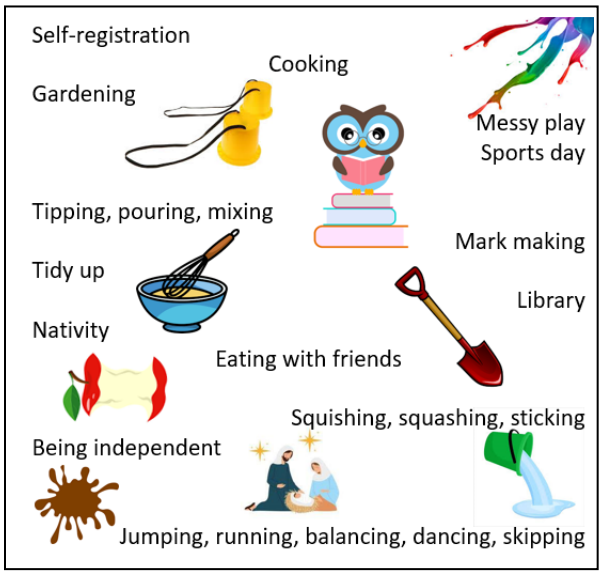
CURRICULUM

Within the group, all children are supported in developing their potential at their own pace. Our key person system enables us to ensure a planned curriculum tailored to the needs of each individual child. By means of developmentally appropriate play activities and a high level of individual adult input, we offer a curriculum which enables children to progress towards the Early Learning Goals of the "Early Years Foundation Stage" and prepares them for the National Curriculum, which begins at Year 1 in primary school.

Little Apples is based on free flow play, so mostly children choose what to do from a range of educational and carefully planned activities and resources, inside and outside in our lovely garden. We also have adult-led learning opportunities in small groups or one-to-one. Your key person will be responsible for guiding your child through the "Early Years Foundation Stage" (EYFS) and the activities provided help support that.

Curriculum Overview

Core experiences



Core resources and environment

Mud kitchen
Playdough
Free-flow
Maths club
Table free zone
Paint
Garden
Cosy area
Non-fiction books
Construction
Nature zone
Role play
Tactile and sensory
Language and listening group
Real world resources
Music and Instruments

Core themes

Sustainability and climate change planning

FOOD, DIET AND FOOD WASTAGE

Families can face financial challenges or struggle to ensure children have healthy diets. We support education that aims to improve diet and sustainable choices, reducing food costs and food miles.

LOSS OF LOCAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

House building on the field behind our hall will change the very immediate environment in a way that is very visible to the children. We want to involve the children in measures to off-set this.

Please see our display or ask for more info

SAFEGUARDING

(protecting children from abuse or neglect)

Little Apples operates a very strict Safeguarding policy, details of which can be found on our website and in the lobby. As part of this, you will be asked not to use your mobile phone or tablet in the children's area. Please do not take exception to this as the rule applies to everyone. We will also ask you to complete a form for any injuries your child sustained outside Little Apples.

Where a child makes a specific disclosure of abuse, or we have other cause for concern, we will contact The Children Services Department Professional helpline for advice.

Informing parents

- Parents are normally the first point of contact.
- If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board does not allow this.

EQUALITY

Our setting is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children, families and employees.
We aim to nurture a tolerant and positive environment and will not tolerate discrimination that may arise from the ethnic heritage, race, religion, beliefs, social and economic background, gender, sexuality, ability or disability of an individual, (child or adult) or family.

ADULT RESOURCES

We are proud of the high ratio of adults to children in our group. This ensures individual attention to the needs and development of each child and complies with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.

Staff - The regular staff at Little Apples are:

Name	**Title**	**Qualifications & Experience**
Joanne Whatley	Manager Child protection officer Inclusion co-ordinator	BA Primary Practice (Distinction)
Charlotte Goff	Deputy Manager & Inclusion assistant	Early Years Educator Level 3
Karen Totterdell	Business Manager	
Sian Davies	Early Years Practitioner	NVQ3 Early Years Care & Education
Nadia Valmas	Early Years Practitioner	Early Childhood Education Diploma (level 4 equivalent)
Rhona Jeremy	Room leader	NVQ2 Early Years Care & Education
Amelia Webb	Early Years Practitioner	
Ellis Standing	Early Years Practitioner	NVQ3 Early Years Care & Education
Julie Ledbury	Early Years Practitioner	Early Years Educator (apprentice)
Rhiannon Susans	Early Years Practitioner	Early Years Educator (apprentice)
Nicola Ilsley	Early Years Practitioner	NVQ3 Children's care learning and development
Rachael Grepne	Early Years Practitioner	
Darcey Totterdell	Early Years Practitioner	
Emmy Tyndale	Early Years Practitioner	NVQ3 Early Years Care & Education
Amelia Clark	Early Years Practitioner	

Key Person System

Each child is allocated a key person who you will meet on your visits, giving your child a special adult to relate to. This can make settling into the group much easier. In addition, the key person is in a position to tailor the learning opportunities to the unique needs of each individual child. The key person maintains links with the child's home setting, working with parents through shared record keeping to ensure that all children are supported in reaching their full potential. Formal Parent contact appointments are offered twice a year, but staff are available for an update throughout the week.

At Little Apples we use a system known as "Tapestry" to monitor and record the children's learning and progress. When a child demonstrates new learning or a new skill, or takes part in a particular activity, members of staff record this as an observation on a tablet, often including a photograph. Their Key Person then analyses the observations for each child in conjunction with their knowledge of the child to establish where each child is achieving developmentally and then plan their next important steps. The observations together form a document called the "Learning journal".

Tapestry offers the opportunity for relatives to view the observations of their own children, download photographs, add an observation of their own and download their child's Learning Journal as a PDF. More information can be found at https://tapestryjournal.com/

Your child will also be allocated a co-key person to support your child in any sessions where the key person may be absent.

The role of parents

Little Apples recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their young children. We aim to support parents. Parents can get involved in a variety of ways and at a level of involvement to suit all circumstances. Families are encouraged to:

- Talk to staff, sharing any news and discussing concerns.
- Exchange news and monitor their child's development at Pre-school through Tapestry
- Join in a session with the children. (Finding out what the children do and getting to know staff and children)
- Assist with fundraising or attend fund raising event.
- Share photographs of families, pets, special occasions with us
- Let us know of "WOW" moments in your child's development.
- Take part in the management of the pre-school, through the committee. This is very important as we cannot operate without a committee. Usually there are 3 meetings a year. Please ask for more information.

POLICIES

Our policy statements are always available to view on-line. Should you wish to obtain a copy, please contact the manager.

All our policies are designed to offer the best possible experience for the children and families in the group. Our policies are reviewed on a regular basis and comments and suggestions from parents are always welcome.

Our manager is happy to discuss any questions you may have.

Special educational needs

We aim to provide equality of opportunity for all members of our group, and this includes children with special educational needs. Each child is supported to progress at her/his own rate in all areas of development, and this is true for children with and without disabilities, additional needs or learning difficulties. We are experienced in working in close liaison with professionals across the range of special needs, and we operate in accordance with the government's Code of Practice on special educational needs. If you would like to discuss the group's ability to meet your own child's special needs, please talk to the manager or your child's keyworker. Our full special needs policy is available on request and on our website.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Decision making

The pre-school is run by an elected committee, which ensures that major decision-making is in the hands of the parents who use the group. The committee is responsible for reviewing both policy and practice. Our Annual General Meeting, at which the committee for the following year is elected, is held in May and parents will be informed in good time so they are able to attend.

Fees

Fees continue to be payable if a child is absent without notice or for a short time. In cases of prolonged absence, parents should consult the manager or business manager about fee payment. Each child's attendance at the group is conditional upon continued payment of any necessary fees.

STARTING PRE-SCHOOL

The first days

A child who is tense or unhappy will not be able to play or learn properly, so it is important for parents and pre-school staff to work together to help the child to feel confident and secure in the group. This takes longer for some children than for others and parents should not feel worried if their child takes a while to settle. The pre-school's policy on settling is available on request. We are able to accommodate each child's individual needs and welcome comfort items as they often help children settle with a familiar item around them. A child-friendly "Welcome Pack" is provided.

Toileting

While some children are toilet trained when they start pre-school, some are not ready at this time.

We welcome children at Little Apples who are wearing nappies or pull ups and ask that they bring a couple of changes with them for their time with us.

Some children regress with potty training when they first start and this is quite normal but we usually find that once settled, children revert to being trained again.

We have potties, steps, toilet seats and low toilets and sinks for the children to use to ensure that toileting is not a daunting process, and staff are happy to support families, whatever stage training is at.

What to wear

In order to feel free to explore and experiment with all kinds of materials, including messy ones, it is best to send children dressed in clothes that are easily washable or not too new. Although aprons are offered for messy activities, we never force a child to wear one against their will. Many children find that aprons can inhibit their creativity and prefer not to wear one.

It is good for children to practice the skills that will make them independent. Simple clothing that they can handle themselves will enable them to go to the toilet when they want to and to put on and take off their outdoor clothes without being too dependent on other people's help.

Little Apples T-shirts and fleeces are available to purchase when your child starts. These make an easy alternative to deciding what to wear each day. Please ask for an order form.

No Smoking

Little Apples is a NO SMOKING environment, and we ask parents and families to support this by not smoking inside or on the car park.

We hope that your child's time in pre-school will be a very happy and productive one. If you have any queries, or if we can be of any help, please contact Jo at any time. manager@littleapples.org

For further information about the Pre-school Learning Alliance, to which we belong, send a large SAE for a free publications catalogue to the Pre-school Learning Alliance, 69 Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9LL.

explore engage enjoy excite

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026/2027

1st September 2026 – 18th December 2026 inclusive

Half term – 26th October 2026 to 30th October 2026 (Closed from 16th, see inset days below)

Spring Term 2026/2027

4th January 2027– 25th March 2027 inclusive

Half term – 15th – 19th February 2027 (Closed)

Summer Term 2026/2027

12th April 2027 – 21st July 2027 inclusive

Half term – 31st May 2027 to 4th June 2027 (Closed)

Inset days

There have to be a total of 5 in-service closure days each academic year. They will be:

October 19th – 23rd 2026 inclusive (Little Apples will be closed.)

explore engage enjoy excite

REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name:……..

Date of Birth: …… Gender …….

Address: .....

E-mail Address: .....

Telephone Number (home): .....

Registered by: ..... Relationship to child:

When would you like your child to start?* ……(month and year)
(this can be reviewed later on)

Signature: Date:

Please complete this form and return it with a copy of your child's birth certificate to:

Manager, Little Apples of Bramley, Bramley Village Hall, The Street, Bramley RG26 5JU

Tel: 07598 588460 Email for enquiries manager@littleapples.org

*Age of entry

- Children can start at Little Apples from two years of age.
- Children are eligible to claim 15 hours free pre-school under the EYE Grant scheme from the term *AFTER* their 3rd birthday. Some 3 & 4 year old children qualify for 30 hours. https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education
- Some children aged 2 years or over will be eligible for 15 hours free pre-school under the EYE Grant. To find out if your child may be eligible, visit: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childcare/parents/cis/eye/2-year-old-offer-2.htm

Please let us know how you heard about us: