



# Flo's Nature Nursery

## Prospectus for Parents and Carers



This prospectus provides an introduction to the Nature Nursery at Flo's and our overall approach to early years education and childcare.

To put your child on the waiting list for a place, you will need to complete an **initial application form**.

Once your child has been offered a place you will need to also complete a **Registration Form** and sign our **Childcare Terms and Conditions** before we can finalize the offer. Please also read the **Nursery Sessions and Charges**.

More information is also available on our website: [flosoxford.org.uk/nursery](http://flosoxford.org.uk/nursery)



At Flo's Nature Nursery we aim to deliver the highest quality of care and education to help your child feel happy and settled and to learn and develop in harmony with nature.

Flo's Nature Nursery is led by **Tanja Fletcher**, a highly experienced practitioner and Forest School Leader and is supported by **Annie Davy**, former Head of Early Years for Oxfordshire and an early years consultant. You can find short biographies of them on Flo's website at [www.flosoxford.org.uk/meet-the-team/](http://www.flosoxford.org.uk/meet-the-team/)



## Flo's – The Place in The Park

Flo's is a new community-owned hub in Florence Park, Oxford, providing a welcoming and inclusive space to meet, work, play, learn, eat and foster people's connection to nature.



## Flo's Nature Nursery What we offer

- A choice of **full-time or part-time sessional childcare and education** to children between the ages of two and five years.
- Opening hours: **Monday to Friday from 8.15am to 5.30pm** for 48 weeks of the year.
- **Funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds** in line with Oxfordshire's Early Education Funding scheme, please see below for full details. And see: [www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/early-years-education](http://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/early-years-education)

Our staff are highly experienced, qualified and enthusiastic. They are inspiring people, who will support your child's development and instil a life-long love of learning. Our practitioners undertake regular training to ensure their skills and knowledge-base are up-to-date.



# Our Beliefs and Values

## Play

Play is one of the primary ways in which children learn and develop their skills, language and capacity for problem solving. Flo's Nursery provides lots of opportunities for children to learn through play in our indoor and outdoor spaces. We encourage playing in groups so that the children learn to build positive relationships to each other. We want children to learn with their hands as well as their heads and to handle beautiful things from natural resources that are ethically sourced and environmentally friendly. Active, outdoor play helps children develop dexterity and physical coordination, and stimulates the development of the brain and self-expression and creativity.



## Learn

We believe passionately that all children are competent and capable thinkers and learners. Learning should be fun, relevant and connect children to their social and natural surroundings. We place a strong emphasis on outdoor learning and believe that nature provides the best resources to support children's well-being, learning and development. Children have 'One Hundred Languages' or ways of knowing and so the whole child, head, heart and hands, should be involved in learning. Underpinning our work are values of inclusion, kindness, appreciation of difference and cooperation; everyone who works in and uses the Nursery is expected to demonstrate these values in their behaviour towards others and the environment.

## Connect

We believe that secure relationships are essential to healthy development. We ensure children have trusted adults to care for and teach them, and we support children to make good friends across the activities at Flo's. Developing a sense of place and connection to people and nature in the neighbourhood is equally important. Being outside helps the development of children's independence so they become increasingly responsible for their own welfare and care of other living things. They will learn to understand their interdependence with each other and the environment. For example, children at our Nursery will learn from experience where food comes from, including growing some in our garden and visits to the local Elder Stubbs allotments and the Oxford City Farm.



## Thrive

Above all we want children to thrive in our Nature Nursery. Whatever their family circumstances, faith, culture and economic backgrounds, we want them to feel comfortable in their skin, and connected to the natural world, the park, the community and to feel at home in the Nursery. At our Nursery children will be able to relax and breathe fresh air, eat nutritious food and feel secure. We want them to feel a sense of excitement, challenge and purpose in experiencing new things and to develop skills, to become independent and resilient in the face of inevitable challenges that life brings.

## Grow

Children's development is dependent on environments that promote good health and our Nursery will support this in several ways. Outdoor learning supports the development of children's resilience. The weather and seasons provide constant sources of change that strengthen children's ability to adapt. Nutritious and healthy food is supplied by our gorgeous onsite café, using locally sourced, fresh ingredients and minimising waste. Children will learn about ingredients and be involved in food preparation and cooking and enjoy eating together. We will use cleaning products and other materials that are free of toxic chemicals wherever possible.





## Partnership with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are children's first and foremost educators and we want to work together to develop opportunities that suit your child's curiosities, disposition and development. Staff are always available to talk to parents about their child. As well as the daily hand-over discussions, parents are invited for regular reviews on their child's learning and development. There are many ways in which parents can take an active part in making our nursery a welcoming and stimulating place to be, such as volunteering at a session, reading or singing with the children, sharing their own special skills or interests with the children or joining in with one of our events.



## Settling in

We understand the importance of children feeling safe and secure in a new environment. Our staff work with parents/carers to devise a settling in programme that meets the individual needs of their child(ren). Each child is assigned a Key person before they start, who will usually be there to greet them in the morning and who will be the main point of contact for the parents. We aim to visit each child at home before they start so we can get to know them and their parents in their own environment. We aim to make our nursery as homely as possible to promote comfort and security together with a sense of belonging and trust for each and every child and parent. For more information please see our settling in policy.



## Meals and Snacks

Healthy, nutritious, balanced meals, incorporating any special dietary requirements will be provided by our on-site cafe for lunch and tea. Staff eat with the children, ensuring a warm and sociable atmosphere at meal times. At snack time, the children will have a choice of healthy options, such as fresh fruit and rice or corn cakes etc. Children will also have regular opportunities to make their own snacks, for example bread rolls or pizzas. Drinking water is available at all times.

## Outings and Visitors

In addition to using our own garden, we endeavour to make full use of the local environment surrounding the Nursery to provide the children with experiences to enhance their learning and knowledge of the world. We have links with other nearby projects, such as the City Farm and Elder Stubbs Allotments. Depending on the age groups at the nursery at any time, we may also take the children on trips further afield, such as to the Natural History Museum. We will also invite visitors to Flo's to talk to the children about their special skills or interests, eg. local wildlife experts.



## Early Years Foundations Stage

Our curriculum is guided by the The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS, 2017). The EYFS is a statutory framework which specifies requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The learning and development requirements cover:

- The areas of learning and development which must shape activities and experiences (educational programmes) for children in all early years settings;
- The early learning goals that providers must help children work towards (the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five);
- Assessment arrangements for measuring progress (and requirements for reporting to parents and/or carers).

The safeguarding and welfare requirements cover the steps that we take to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

For more information about the EYFS, please see: [www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS\\_Parents\\_Guide-amended.pdf](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf)



## Observation, Planning and Assessment

Using the key areas of learning staff carry out regular observations of the key children and use these to plan for their further learning and development. We believe that parents know their children best and we will ask you to contribute to our assessment by sharing information about what your child likes to do at home and how you, as parents, are supporting their development. Your child's keyperson will put together a Learning Journey of observations and photographs of your child to demonstrate their progress in all the areas of learning.

We pay particular interest to the way children learn which are described in the EYFS as the characteristics of effective teaching and learning. They are:

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically



## Safeguarding & Promoting Welfare

We take safeguarding very seriously and are committed to the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We have a Designated Lead Practitioner (DLP) within the nursery who has specific training on safeguarding matters and will ensure this is of paramount importance in all aspects of our work. All our staff are thoroughly vetted prior to starting work with the children and are kept up to date in training on Safeguarding. For further information please see our safeguarding policy or ask a member of staff.



## Outdoor play

We encourage children to gain the skills that help them to be independent and to learn about and connect with nature and their sense of place in the environment. Children may choose to be outdoors for most of the day, and getting messy (eg. in our wonderful mud kitchen) is an important part of the learning experience, so we ask that children are dressed in suitable clothing. Children will require wellies and waterproof clothes for outdoor play.



## SEND and Inclusion

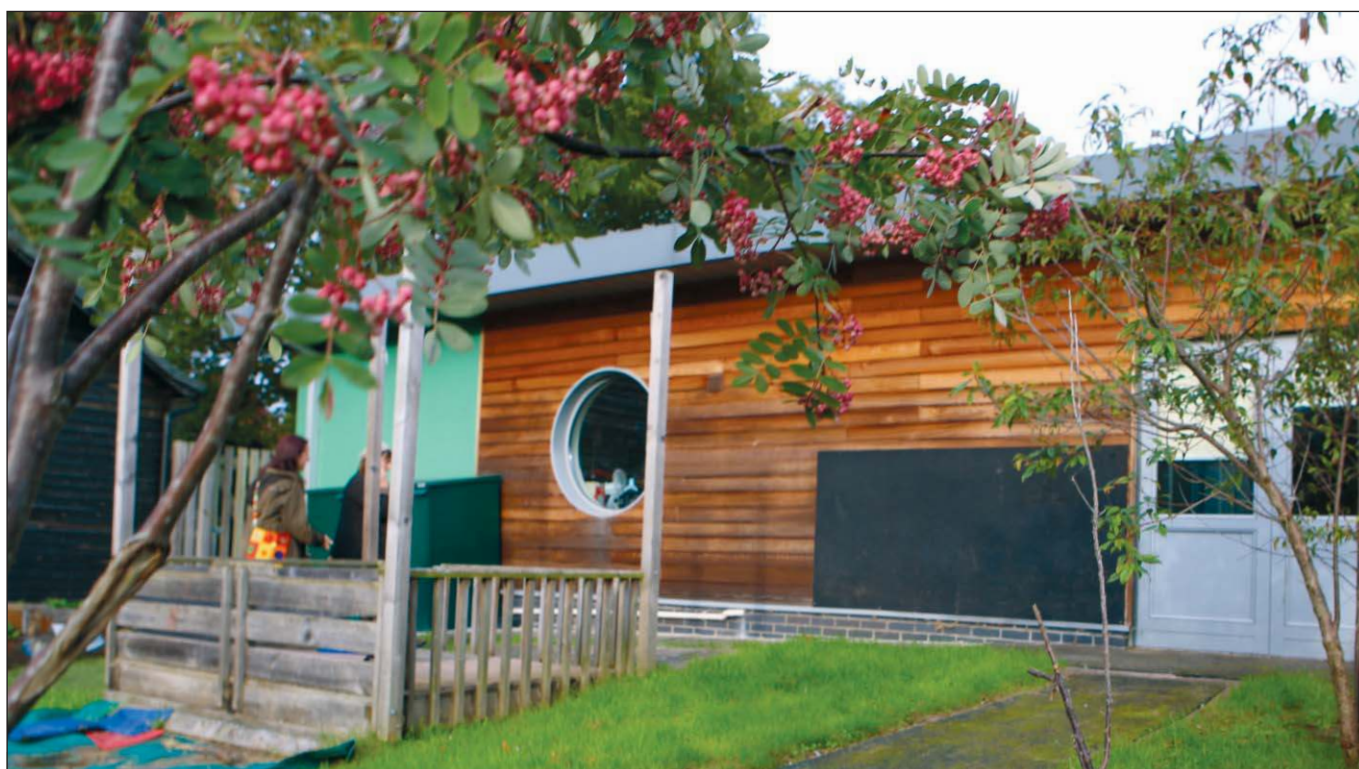
As a caring Nursery we pride ourselves on knowing all of our children individually and taking account of every child's learning preferences and needs. Within our group times and free flow sessions, we are able to differentiate learning opportunities to support or extend children as appropriate. We have a designated SEND Coordinator who has specialist training and can advise and support other staff. We will also work closely with parents and carers on concerns and develop a shared approach to support your child's development needs. We have good links to external specialist advice and support if needed. More information can be found in our SEND and Inclusion policy.

## The governance of our setting

Flo's-the Place in the Park (Flo's) is Charitable Community Business Society, People, Place, Participation (Registration no. 7713). As one of Flo's enterprises the Nursery is governed by a Board of Trustees which includes members which includes expertise in early education and childcare.

Please see our website [www.flosoxford.org.uk](http://www.flosoxford.org.uk) for further information.

We hope that you and your child enjoy being members of our setting and community and that you find taking part in our activities interesting and stimulating. Our staff are always ready and willing to talk with you about your ideas, views or questions.



'Flo's – The Place in the Park' is a community-owned enterprise hub, reaching out to everyone, including children, families and carers, providing a space to meet, work, play, learn and eat. Our core purpose in developing Flo's is to combine enterprise with social impact.



**Find us on Facebook:**

[Facebook.com/flosoxford/](https://www.facebook.com/flosoxford/)

**Tweet with us:**

[@flosoxford](https://twitter.com/flosoxford)

**Email us at the Nursery:**

[nursery@flosoxford.org.uk](mailto:nursery@flosoxford.org.uk)

**And visit our website:**

[www.flosoxford.org.uk/nursery](http://www.flosoxford.org.uk/nursery)