

Clarecraft
Day Nursery



Prospectus

Introduction

Clarecroft staff are fully committed to providing a 'home from home' environment for your children to enjoy. We welcome children from 3 months to 10 years old and aim to provide all of them with high quality care in a warm, safe and friendly environment.

At Clarecroft we follow the Development matters framework to support your child's early learning experiences, and this is backed up with lots of practical hands-on experiences for children in all age groups.

However, Clarecroft is about more than just covering the curriculum; it's about teaching children to share experiences and build their confidence.

Sending your child to Clarecroft will provide them with the opportunity to make friends and gain the confidence to make the move up into their first year at school and beyond.

Come and see for yourself — we would be delighted to show you around !



Growing & Learning

7 Areas of Learning

At Clarecroft we follow the Development Matters Framework from babies through to 5 years old. The Government gives us curriculum guidance which is a non-statutory framework for planning the children's learning and is based on seven areas of learning which are outlined below. **However, it is important to recognise that every child is unique, and we like to work with parents as partners to establish their child's individual learning needs.**

Communication and language: We ensure that all children learn to become competent in communicating, speaking and listening. We give children opportunities to experience a rich language environment. They are given opportunities to use their skills in a wide range of situations and purposes.

Physical Development: We commit to providing children with a variety of opportunities to develop healthy and active bodies. Our work will focus on the development of gross and fine motor control so that each child can grow in independence, can explore and make the most of the opportunities, experiences and environments provided for them, as well as developing the abilities to cope with the physical demands of everyday life.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: We commit to developing authentic relationships and meaningful connections with every child. These relationships will help each child- to feel safe, to have a voice and to know that they matter, to understand that who they are is important and that they are capable of great things. We encourage respect for others, social skills and a positive disposition to learn.

Mathematics: We commit to providing opportunities, experiences and environments that contextualise mathematics. Through real-life experiences, we will help children to start to understand the important role that maths plays in our day-to-day activities.

Expressive Arts and Design: We commit to creating environments that promote discovery and exploration through a variety of mediums. Through play and active learning in exciting and carefully constructed environments, each child will have the opportunity to make meaningful connections, develop skills and develop a deeper level of understanding about the world by interacting with resources, people, opportunities and experiences.

Understanding of the World: We commit to helping children to understand more about the world in which they live. This starts close to home by introducing children to our local community and its amenities, and then extends much wider to provide children with an understanding of nature, animals, and individual differences.

Literacy: We commit to providing children with literacy-rich environments that foster a love of reading and a thirst for knowledge. Through genuine conversations, modelling and a carefully planned approach to the introduction of books, text and print, children will develop an understanding of the importance of reading and writing in everyday life.

For more information on the Development Matters framework please refer to the department for education and Skills website at www.gov.uk/government/publications/development-matters

The Sun Room (3-24 months)



The Sun room accepts children from 3 months until the term after their 2nd birthday. Our Sun room is situated at the front of the main nursery. It offers a separate entrance, dining room, changing area and 2 playrooms with access to their own secure outdoor play area.



3 months-1 year

We recognize the first 12 months of a baby's life are crucial to their development and the staff spend a lot of time talking and singing to the babies to encourage their social and language development. There are a large selection of toys, books, opened ended resources, natural resources and musical toys.

1-2 years old

Our staff offer younger children a safe, warm and child friendly environment, which allows for individual personalities and characters to be catered for. With continuity of care children become emotionally secure and settle easily and quickly (in most instances). Planning allows for child-led experiences which cover all 7 areas of learning with a flexible routine.

The children move up to the next group when they are approximately 2 years old and the decision to move them only comes when we feel they are ready to cope with a more structured group and we have discussed the move with the parents.



The Moon Room (2-3 years)



The Moon group accepts children from 2 years until the September after their 3rd birthday.

The Moon Group is situated at the far end of the main nursery. The room is light, airy and homely with French doors opening to the rear garden. There is a separate sleep/quiet room and toilet with nappy changing facilities.



2 years-3+ years

Staff in the Moon Group offer many opportunities in their daily flexible routine that allows for the boundless energy of younger children. With individual areas for learning through play, children are encouraged to nurture their natural curiosity, imagination and growing independence. Early concentration skills are introduced with opportunities that allow for fine and gross motor skills to develop. Encouragement is also given towards the development of good manners and etiquette.

3+ years

Children will join our pre-school from the September after their 3rd birthday. The curriculum within this room is based on the Development Matters framework which will ensure they are well prepared for a smooth transition to school.

All these areas will be taught through exploring, active learning and creative & critical thinking. All of these will still be child initiated, and where appropriate, adults will support these experiences...but as always, the children will learn through playing and having fun!



To support the pre-school experiences, we also have a pre-school polo shirt to help the children feel part of the Clarecroft pre-school community and help them get used to wearing a uniform before they go to school.

Free Entitlement for all 3-4 year olds

From the term after their 3rd birthday, your child will be eligible to claim 3 and 4 year old 'Early Education Free Entitlement'. This entitles your child to 570 hours of free childcare per year. The funded hours can be used on a 'term time only' or 'all year round' basis. Term time places are available from the term after your child's 3rd birthday.



Funded Early Learning from age 9 months to 3 years

Eligible children can claim 570 hours of free childcare per year. Please see our Admissions Policy for further details. From September 2025, all eligible children will be entitled to 1140 hours per year.

If for either of the above you would like to use some or all of your funding with us, you are required to complete and sign a Northamptonshire County Council funding form, which will be available to complete in the nursery. You will also need to register your child with us and we will need to take a copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of address to accompany your claim form.

The Star Room (3-4 years)



Star Group accepts children for their final year before starting school. Star group has a large main room with areas dedicated to ICT, Roleplay, Reading, Mathematics and Creativity. The main dining room is also available at specific times of the day for the children to participate in cooking and other small group activities. There are separate bathroom facilities with child size toilets and sinks to encourage your child's independence. In the Star Group the children focus on all seven areas of learning, and staff help the children prepare for the transition to school. This includes learning basic reading & writing skills along with personal independence skills such as learning to change themselves for PE lessons.



The Galaxy Out of School & Holiday Club



Out of School & Holiday Clubs

The challenges facing parents are compounded with their child's move to full-time education. Working hours do not coincide with the conventional school day and school holidays can be the greatest challenge of all.

Children enjoy being with other children and thrive in their company and so parents are looking for a safe place where the needs of their children can be met. In response to this, we offer a range of services for children between the ages of 4 and 10 years. At this age, children are more discerning and demand a more active and engaging environment. We offer a range of age appropriate activities with lots of choice, creating many opportunities for fun and social interaction. All this takes place in a space that is safe and secure, with access to an outdoor play area.



Before & After School Club



A full range of activities is available, for example, table-football, board games, arts and crafts, as well as access to outdoor space and play. For added interest themed activities and special events are sometimes scheduled. Healthy snacks and drinks are provided for the children, and a hot tea is available for those children staying past 5pm.

Children are taken to, and collected from both the local schools here in Long Buckby and we can tailor these collection times to accommodate school trips and special events when they are during the term.

Holiday Club

Operating during school holidays, activities focus on giving children the opportunity of participating in a variety of exciting programs. Examples include, creative workshops, games, sports, ceramics, art, cookery and themed weeks. To maximize choice, a range of other



activities are available at all times such as table-football, board games, arts and crafts and outdoor games.

Above all it's a great place to make friends and have fun!

Additional Information

Here at Clarecroft we are fortunate to have an extremely highly qualified team of staff to support your children through their formative years.

Amongst our Main Nursery staff we currently have:

Multiple Early Years Graduates, a NVQ Level 4, and all staff are Level 3 qualified or working towards this qualification with us.

In our Out of School Club we follow the Play Work principles following the completion of the Level 3 in Play Work.

All staff are trained in First Aid and child Safety. We have a qualified experienced Cook who freshly prepares all the children's meals daily.

Having such a highly qualified team of staff means that we will never be the cheapest option available- however, it does demonstrate that we are committed to providing the highest levels of childcare and we are constantly updating our training, policies and procedures to maintain and exceed our existing high standards.

Parents as Partners

Clarecroft Day Nursery recognises that parents are experts on their own children and act as their first educators. To meet the individual needs of the children at Clarecroft the staff will endeavor to work with parents as partners in providing quality care and allowing the child to flourish and reach their full potential.

How we share information: Every child between 3 months and 4 years has a personal diary which key staff will record details of the child's time at nursery and this can also be used by parents to record any activities or observations from home, and messages to key staff. We also have a parent's policy folder. We recommend all parents read this on joining us/annually. The folder can be found in both entrances.

We help parents keep up to date with their child's learning journey through termly newsletters and development updates, monthly topic letters and weekly bulletins – all of which can be found on our website at www.clarecroft.com

Quote from our last Ofsted Inspection :

"The learning environment is organised extremely well and all children make choices, selecting the toys they wish to play with from low-level, labelled boxes. An effective free flow system is in place enabling children to move directly between the garden and the nursery. Consequently, children of all ages choose when they would like to continue their learning outdoors. Resources are interesting, provide excellent challenge and staff have introduced many natural materials such as wood, bricks, tyres which extends their learning. Covers within the garden areas ensure children are protected from the sun and allows them to play outdoors in inclement weather."

If you would like to read our full report it is available at: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Further Details

Nursery Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 7.30am-6pm

Holidays:

We are closed for statutory bank holidays, for which there is no reduction to fees.

We close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and we are closed New Year's Eve. No allowance can be made for sick days or holidays taken.

Settling In & Optional home Visits:

Children are invited to two settling in sessions the week before they start at the nursery. The sessions last for a minimum of 2 hours and on the first visit we would ask for an adult to stay with the child to offer support.

Optional home visits or video call offer the opportunity for a more informal introduction to be made between children, their families and nursery staff.

For each child that is visited at home prior to starting Clarecroft, the manager will book a convenient date with the child's parents and talk them through the structure of the visit. The child's keyperson and the nursery Manager or Deputy will visit the child's home together.

Sessions & Fees:

Sessions times and fees are as published. These sessions are available all year round. Extra sessions or hours are subject to availability and must be agreed by a member of the Management Staff.

Late Collection: A charge of £1.00 per minute per child will apply to any late pick up.

We reserved the right to increase our fees at our discretion, giving one month's notice in writing.

Payments can be made by cheque if over the amount of £243 and by internet banking. We also accept most major childcare vouchers.

Payment:

Invoices will be sent out before month end and fees must be paid monthly in advance and are due by the 5th of each month.

Late payment will incur a £15.00 charge and we reserve the right to refuse your child admission to Nursery should payment be more than 14 days late.

If you wish to set up childcare voucher payments, you will need our Ofsted Registration number which is : EY489420