



Stanstead Mill

DAY NURSERY

Prospectus
2024/25

Welcome to the family!

Thank you for your enquiry regarding childcare at Stanstead Mill Day Nursery.

Enclosed is some information, which hopefully will be of some help in your quest for childcare. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We take pride in offering a 'home away from home' environment. We strongly suggest a personal viewing if you have not already done so. No appointment is necessary, however if you phone in we will make sure that one of us will be available to see you personally.

We look forward to meeting you and your child soon.

A bit about Stanstead Mill

Stanstead Mill Day Nursery is a small private nursery located in the heart of Stanstead Abbots town centre. We are walking distance to the train station. We take children from 3 months until 5 years old and we are open from 7:30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday all year except for Bank Holidays.

Our aims are:

- To provide a high level of care for every child and adult in our nursery and to promote equality and value diversity.
- To equip children with the appropriate skills and knowledge they need to carry them on to the next level of development.
- To provide a friendly, welcoming and experience rich environment for every child who will receive the care and attention they need to feel safe and secure.
- To encourage children to communicate and express themselves in their own individual way, whilst showing them how to be kind, to share and behave appropriately to all. By showing children how to do this they will also learn to value and respect people and the environment around them.
- To give each child opportunities in which they can learn, play and communicate with other children and adults.

What makes us special?

As we are a small nursery, every child can be given our full attention.

The relationship built with each child is always special and enables them to feel self- assured in our care.

These relationships grow and change with your child's individual needs and encourages them to become confident in their own abilities. That's why we are special! We want your child to feel that we are home from home and to love spending each day with their extended family.

Our staff

Step inside and meet our wonderful team of staff. Our staff have their own special qualities and together they provide a high standard of care through their individual personalities, experience and qualifications.

We are a 100% first aid trained team. We maintain our knowledge on all aspects of childcare such as child protection and behaviour management. We value further development at all levels. We pride ourselves on having staff who are committed to their professional development. In the team we have a qualified Early Years teacher (EYPS) and most staff hold Level3 qualifications in Care, Learning and Education - Early Years work force.

Where we play

Ducklings | 0-2 years

In 2023 our Duckling relocated to the downstairs area of our building as we extended.

In this wonderful, light space, we have embraced small cosy nooks, an indoor soft play space, reading areas, messy areas and plenty of space to explore our resources.

Swans and Kingfishers | 2-3 years and 3+ years

Our Swans and Kingfishers have a large open plan play space in the upstairs of our building. The space allows us to have lots of stations which provide invitations to play for the children. Some of these invitations are regulars, such as the art table and play dough table, and others are created to link to the children's interests and the world around us.

We have a large sand pit, loose parts play, small world and a role play area. The children have access to a sensory room which doubles as an afternoon nap room.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The EYFS is a 'curriculum' designed for all children under the age of 5 years old. It has been introduced for all children in schools, childminder settings and out of school clubs and nurseries. It is mandatory for childcare settings to provide this.

It is designed to create a positive and consistent approach to your child's care.

We plan on a daily basis to meet the requirements of the EYFS and you can view the whole curriculum here (edited Sept 2021):

www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2

We see the curriculum as the holistic way we approach looking after your child, from the food we feed them to the people around them. We strive to provide the best environment that considers all the areas of learning.

At Stanstead Mill Day Nursery, your child will be planned for as an individual and we will provide suitable play and learning experiences to meet their needs. This will always be carried out in a fun and exciting way and integrated into our daily routine, these are usually fun activities for all the children to experience together.

We plan for your child as an individual and over their time with us we will record their learning journey via Famly. You can expect to see 'wow' moments of your child's day regularly which will link to the characteristics of effective learning.

<https://eyfs.info/articles.html/teaching-and-learning/characteristics-of-effective-learning-play-and-exploration-in-action-r160/>

Key person

Your child will usually have a key person who will help to build a very special bond with you and your child. They will be there to provide security for each child and will be the most important home to nursery link.

Our Hygge Approach

Hygge (pronounced hue-gah) is a Danish concept that focuses on finding wellbeing by enjoying the comforts of everyday routines.

It's an art of creating feelings of cosiness, happiness, familiarity, simplicity, comfort and anything else that brings that warm feeling of contentment. It could be the simple act of lighting a candle, snuggling under a blanket, or sipping tea by the fire when it's cold outside.

Adding hygge to Stanstead Mill

Applying the concept of hygge allows us to create a home-from-home feeling. In turn, this helps to create a sense of security and wellbeing that enables our children to feel calm and relaxed, and to explore and investigate with confidence.

Focusing on children's wellbeing is fundamental for their development and continuing progress. The calming atmosphere allows for increased engagement and focus is on the child's own interests in play. It also promotes self-confidence. Peaceful play helps children to manage their emotions.

In teaching, hygge is about focusing on the process and not the end product. We focus on the children's current interests and allow them time to explore, talk and investigate and twinkly lights soften our atmosphere.

We've carefully designed each room to incorporate a homely feel. Cosy corners provide a space for reflection or reading time. There's minimal clutter in the rooms to promote a relaxing learning play space.

Enjoying the outdoors

Children's interests are at the forefront of learning. Our children are able to move activities around the room and to the outdoors. Hygge is all about enjoying the simple pleasures in life and the environment around us, so it's important to enjoy the outdoors and to bring nature indoors.

We take the children on nature walks and bring back natural resources such as fallen leaves, branches, feathers and flowers.

We enjoy watching the ducks and other birds on the river that sails past our garden and walking to visit the local fields which in the spring have sheep in and often have horses living. Even the local allotment lets us visit to see what they are growing and to offer ideas for our own mini vegetable patch.

Children also enjoy doing simple activities like baking, planting flowers and reading stories. We find that children progress and develop a lot better when we give them time to practise their skills in their own time, as much as they want to.

Being outside is very important to us. You will find that many of our themes focus on the natural world around us.

In January 2024 submitted our journey of Hygge in the Early Years to become an accredited setting.

Working with parents

At Stanstead Mill we try to provide a variety of ways for us to work together - after all, you know your child best!

Firstly, we intend to work with you to settle your child into at their own pace and yours. We aim to follow individual child routines.

We write online care diaries with provide you with important information about your child's care. We also upload our daily activities for you to see.

Other ways we work with parents through regular emails, monthly news letters and our open door policy.

We hold regular coffee mornings, one to ones with your child's keyworker and also have a parents forum, which all our parents are welcome to attend.

Settling in

We understand how difficult it is to leave your child with us for the first time. Our priority is to help you and your family feel welcome and relaxed.

Our settling in sessions are offered free of charge and arranged with you the parents/carers, please feel welcome to telephone at anytime to see how your child is. Each child will be provided with their own settling in period and staff will work with parents during this time to ensure that children are settled into the nursery and enjoy their time with us.

This period of time also provides the opportunity for staff to familiarise themselves with the child's routine which we will follow while they are in our care.

Pre registration visits are also encouraged and parents are welcome to stay with their child in the nursery until they feel happy to leave them in our care.

We will always offer extended settle periods and home visits for children who need them. Our approach is child centred and flexible where possible.

Policies and procedures

An outline of our policies and procedures can be seen below. If you have any questions regarding our policies or procedures then please do not hesitate to contact the manager. Policies and procedures are updated once a year. Full copies of our recent policies may be obtained upon request.

Accident/Illness

Any child who is unwell should not be brought into the nursery and we reserve the right to refuse to accept the child until we are satisfied that they are not infectious. Children should not attend if they have vomited, had diarrhoea or a high temperature within a 48 hour period. If a child is taken ill or injured, First Aid will be administered and the parents will be advised.

All accidents will be recorded. Parents will receive a copy of the accident and are asked to sign the nursery copy. If the child requires emergency treatment, the nursery reserves the right to take them to hospital, informing parents as soon as possible. Parents must inform staff of any allergies or relevant information including serious medical conditions that your child has experienced. This information will help us care for your child appropriately.

Confidentiality

All children's details and information supplied to the nursery by parents will remain confidential. Written forms will be kept in a locked cabinet and accessed only by management and the individual child's parents on request. Please read our Data protection and Full policy for more information.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Stanstead Mill values each child and adult as an individual and encourages all to achieve their full potential. The nursery and its staff will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religious beliefs, language, family background, ethnic origin, special needs, ability or disability. All toys, books, displays and language used at nursery will reflect and celebrate the diversity of the nursery group as well as the wider community.

Food at Stanstead Mill

**On our onsite chef cooks all our food on the premises.
It is cooked using fresh ingredients and tastes wonderful!**

Our menu runs on an 3 week rotational basis. Our menu provides a balanced diet and a variety of food for the children to taste. All special dietary requirements will be catered for. Snack times are at 10:00am and 2:00pm. A selection of fruit is available to children for morning snack and afternoon snack is a savoury with a choice of warm milk or water.

All food is prepared according to the child's age and eating abilities. Babies will be provided with a water cup which will be regularly refilled. The Swans and the Kingfishers have access to our drinks station.

We support healthy eating at nursery and all meals that are provided will be home made and balanced.

Baby meals/milk

We will work with families on an individual basis to arrange the best way for us to prepare and store your child's milk.

We have years of experience using bottles and supporting breastfeeding mums.

What our parents think...

“I am extremely happy with the quality of education my son receives at Stanstead Mill. His vocabulary and numeracy skills have improved exponentially since joining the nursery and along with that his confidence and interpersonal skills have blossomed too.”

Mum to James (aged 3 years)

“I am constantly impressed with the high standards and expectations the staff have of themselves at all times. Their professionalism, care and good humour have contributed to our boy being a sociably, kind and funny toddler.”

Dad to Barnaby (aged 2 years)

“We couldn’t be happier with the childcare at Stanstead Mill provided for our 2 children. The staff are so friendly and keep us well informed of how they are and what they have been getting up to. We love the daily Famly updates and wow moments”

Dad to Florence and Harry (aged 4 and 2 years)

“We feel incredibly lucky to have such a supportive, loving team looking after our children. We both typically work in London and greatly value the hours and flexibility Stanstead Mill offers working parents”

Mum to William (aged 8 months)

Registration

All meals, snacks and cows milk are provided within the cost. Breakfast is available for the children to have between 7:30am and 9am.

We provide all wet wipes and nappy creams. We ask you to provide nappies for your child. Please provide a pack and we will let you know when they are running low.

A minimum of two sessions must be booked.

There is a 10% discount for children attending a full time.

There is a sibling discount applicable for the 2nd child's sessions when both children are attending. (Please see fee policy for more details).

Fees will be due by the **10th of each month** payable by cheque, made payable to **Stanstead Mill Day Nursery** or via the preferred method of a direct bank transfer. All fees must be paid for the month in advance. In order to reserve your child's place, please complete our registration forms.

Once completed, please submit these forms with a £100 registration fee.

One months fees will be required in advanced. This can be paid in instalments but must be settled to reserve your child's space. The deposit will be held against your account and used towards your last month's fee with us.

We regret that under no circumstance will the registration fee or deposit will be refunded.



Forest School Sessions

Our Kingfishers have access to forest school sessions with Gini. Please ask for further information.