



## Little Dragons Day Nursery

Dragon Hall,  
East Parade,  
Harrogate  
HG1 5LB

**Manager:** Aimee Buffham

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**Website:** [www.funcare.co.uk](http://www.funcare.co.uk)



Caring and fun for your children



## Our Vision...

Our vision is to provide the highest quality experiences for children, for carers and for parents.

- We believe in treating all people, little and large with care and respect.
- We believe that happy children should be able to explore their world freely, whilst remaining at all times healthy and safe.
- We believe that each individual child should be able to enjoy and achieve their potential in life through play and laughter.
- We believe that parents are the most important people in their child's life and we value and welcome their knowledge and involvement.
- We believe in open and honest relationships and strive to be positive and flexible in all that we do.

Aimee Buffham is level 4 qualified and is working towards her degree in Children's Learning and Development. She has many years experience working with children of all ages.



Aimee Buffham



Dee Sturges

Little Dragons Day Nursery is run by Funcare Ltd with Aimee Buffham as Nursery Manager, and Dee Sturges as Early Years Director.

Dee Sturges is a qualified teacher and an Early Years Professional with many years experience of childcare and education. Dee is responsible for the high quality operation of all Funcare nurseries.

Ian Thompson



Funcare Ltd was set up and is run by Josy and Ian Thompson, who are local parents. The company also runs Woodlands and PlayAway Day Nurseries as well as a number of before and after school Funclubs at local primary schools.



Josy Thompson

## Quality Childcare

Excellent childcare is always about the people who are caring for your children, and this is where quality is most important.



We achieve this by investing in our people. As good relationships form the solid basis of our nursery we are very proud of our low staff turnover and fantastic team work!! Our staff are supported through regular training and supervisions to ensure our high standards are maintained.

We are proud to be rated as high quality and GOOD by OFSTED. We love to challenge ourselves to be the best we can by continually seeking to improve.

### Your Key Person

The key person system is the foundation of everything that we do at Little Dragons. It is our aim to form close relationships not only with your child but with you as a family. Your key person is there to ensure that your child is as comfortable and secure as possible whilst away from their family.

Whilst your child is with us at Little Dragons their key person carries out observations and uses these to plan ways to move your child's learning forwards. During this time a Learning Journey is kept as a record of their learning which you take home to keep at the end of your time at Little Dragons.



# Our Lovely People



**We are very proud to have a highly qualified and experienced team of child carers, and a very low staff turnover. Over 85% of our team hold childcare qualifications and the rest are working towards them!**

**Our aim is to have every member of our staff team:**

- Childcare qualified or in training
- First Aid qualified
- Trained in basic food hygiene
- Trained in child protection

Our staff are fully trained to sign with all children and we are a part of the Tiny Talk accredited programme. This helps children communicate with us long before they have the verbal skills to do so.

*'Every staff member at Little Dragons who we have met so far has been extremely courteous, cheerful and helpful. They do their utmost to accommodate any request and are pro-active in sharing information, consistently show genuine affection and respect for the children they are with, and demonstrate a detailed knowledge of their individual needs'*

Lisa Madden



the UK's favourite baby signing classes

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# Baby Room

Stability, cuddles and warmth  
(3 months to 2 years)

Our baby room occupies one side of the nursery and can be separated into two smaller rooms by dividing doors. This allows us the flexibility to cater for each baby's individual needs.



**We offer the best for our babies by providing:-**

- Underfloor heating which creates a warm, cosy, friendly space for babies and is a 'no shoe' zone.
- Sensory and heuristic play which is a big focus; allowing the children to explore touch and texture (with their WHOLE bodies), smell, sound, taste and a whole load of messy play.
- Delightful dream coracles which enable them to find a snugly place to rest, relax or sleep as well as double bunk cots for children who prefer the security of a cot for their sleeps.
- Warm and caring key people who are responsible for meeting all of your child's personal care needs as well as working hard to build that secure attachment with your child.
- An environment where we follow your home routine to ensure your baby feels comfortable and safe.
- All formula milk, nappies, food nappy cream and suncream too to make things easier for you!



*Its nice as a parent knowing that I can drop off and collect H at nursery and feel 100% sure that he is going to be safe and extremely well cared for and loved just as much as he is at home.*

Sarah Lewis

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## Toddler Room



The toddler room occupies one side of our hall and is separated from our pre-school by dividing doors.

- A light, airy room with a lot of open space enables our 2 year olds to move, climb, discover and explore freely on a large scale using their whole bodies.
- Open ended resources support your child's learning as they figure out the what's, why's and how's of life!

*'We love the positive interactive and child centered environment you have all created at nursery. B loves coming to nursery and always speaks so positively of his experience with staff and his little friends. B's confidence and social skills have grown.'*

Helen Croft

*Action, exploring and building relationships (2-3 years)*

- A wide range of messy play experiences help develop your child's understanding of the world around them.
- Our lovely adventure centre in the middle of the room offers physical challenges and hiding spaces.
- Key people encourage our toddlers to be more independent in serving their meals, trying their coats and shoes and managing their toileting.

Toddlers are just beginning to find their own language and ways to communicate. This can often be a frustrating time for toddlers and key people ensure that they work with your child to create a mutual understanding by whatever means possible.

As our toddlers are very busy little people they still have the opportunity for a little rest during the day on our little toddler beds in a quiet place.

Some 2 year olds may be eligible for 15 hours free each week (term-time only) and as a registered nursery we can claim these from the government for your child. Please ask for further details.



## Pre-School Rooms

*Early learning through play and fun (3-4 years)*

Pre-school is a lively, colourful and vibrant place which offers constant age-appropriate challenges and a little more structure.

At one end of our lovely, large pre-school room we have a large stage area for music and movement activities as well as performing our own plays. In Pre-school we prepare your child for school by:-

- Following the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum where learning is strongly based through play.
- Providing quality learning experiences in all areas of development.
- Encouraging independence to make choices, freely access snack, the outdoors and the toilet areas.
- Setting challenges and encouraging them to managing their own behaviour. This is all about making friends and respecting other people.
- Having knowledgeable key people who understand your child's likes and dislikes very well so that activities planned for your child will reflect upon them as an individual.
- Creating an awareness of letters and sounds based on the Government guidance through pre-formal reading activities, group times and games.



- Creating an awareness of numbers and number concept activities through play, discussion and exploration.

As a registered pre-school we are able to claim up to 15 hours per week funding from the government for your child. These free hours are term time only and are available for children in the term AFTER they turn 3.



# Fabulous Outdoors

We believe that children should be able to play outside whenever possible and explore the natural world around them in a carefree way.

Being outdoors allows the children to be more physically active and as we provide all weather suits for them they can play in the rain and snow too!

Our pre-school and toddler children enjoy the front playground. We have a willow dome that provides a lovely, leafy tunnel and hidey hole for exciting games and a more natural woodchip area for discovering mini-beasts! The outdoor equipment provides many different



opportunities to develop physical and balancing skills and with access to an outdoor tap what more could any child want than a 'muddy area' and a 'mud kitchen'!

The babies enjoy an all-weather lawn area at the rear of the building. The herbs, colours and chimes provide natural sensory experiences for our little ones. A big tree provides lovely shade in the summer months. A range of ride-on and push-along toys help our babies balance, take steps and explore space and boundaries.

We are very lucky to be close to the beautiful Stray which we use regularly when out on walks, for parachute play and for more boisterous ball games. The close proximity of the fire station, train station and bus station provide ideal places to visit with the children.



# Meals

## Sample Menu

**Spaghetti Bolognese with hidden mushrooms, peppers and courgettes**

**Home made flap jack**

**Mackerel and soft cheese pate & toast**

**Fresh fruit**

All our meals are freshly cooked on the premises by our nursery cook and our menu is varied and exciting. We pride ourselves on ensuring that all our snacks and meals are well balanced and nutritious. We serve a choice of cereal in the morning between 7 and 8 and then provide a hot two course main meal for lunch and a light tea. Please note our teas are served at 3.30 and your child will still need supper when they go home at the end of the day. A healthy snack is on offer during the morning. We provide babies with the equivalent baby food.

We cater for all dietary requirements and needs. Our menu changes regularly throughout the year and is posted in all rooms so that parents are aware of the daily meals provided.



Meals are planned with a strong emphasis on healthy eating and we aim to provide the majority of your child's recommended daily intake of fruit and veg by including 'hidden' vegetables in our meals. To ensure good eating habits and table manners are set from an early age a member of staff eats with the children every day to role model these good behaviours.



From time to time children are included in preparing their own tea and really enjoy the opportunity to be involved. We find they eat better too because they have made it!

We provide the children with milk and water to drink throughout the day. The toddlers and pre-school have free access to their own water bottles and babies are given regular drinks of water throughout the day by their key people.

# Equal opportunities for all children



- We believe that every child has the right to reach their full potential.
- We have a Special Educational needs and Disabilities co-ordinator who has knowledge and experience in care and assessment.
- We ensure all children are treated as equals and encouraged to take part in every aspect of our nursery day.
- Our practitioners support the holistic integration of all children and acknowledge the diversity of special educational needs, additional languages, religious practices, customs and festivals.
- We pride ourselves in our close working relationships with other professionals in sharing their knowledge and expertise to provide a supportive and continuous environment.

## Safeguarding Children

Please note that if we have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, development or safety we will speak to you immediately. We are required to keep records of these concerns and when we feel it necessary, the advice of other professionals will be sought (in accordance with our policy). All matters will always be dealt with in consultation with parents/carers to ensure we seek the best support for you, and all matters will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

## Complaints Procedure

If you have any cause for concern you should in the first instance take it up with your child's key person or the Nursery Manager. We would always hope that any concerns a parent/carer may have would be raised and dealt with by negotiation and discussion between the parent/carer and the appropriate staff at the time of occurrence. However, should the issue remain unresolved then the Nursery Manager should be contacted either verbally or in writing. The Manager will investigate the complaint and try to resolve the issue speedily and appropriately contacting and informing those involved.

If the matter cannot be resolved to the parents/carers satisfaction then they have the right to raise the matter with OFSTED on:-

**Tel: 0300 123 1231**  
**Or at: National Business Unit, OFSTED**  
**Royal Exchange Buildings,**  
**St Ann's Square,**  
**Manchester M2 7LA**

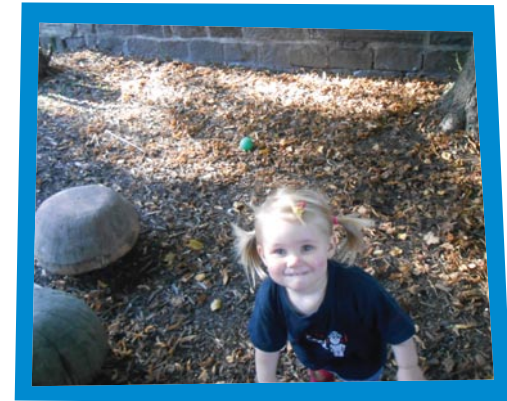
Telephone: 01423 313932 Website: [www.funcare.co.uk](http://www.funcare.co.uk)

# Admissions

Our nursery is open Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm all year except bank holidays.

## What we ask of you:

- To trust and respect us as professional child carers.
- To share your knowledge and expertise about your child to help us gather a holistic view of your child's development.
- To keep us informed of any changes to your contact details or your circumstances which may affect your child.
- To keep your child at home if they are poorly or infectious.
- To pay your fees on the first of each month on time and in full, in order to minimise any admin or cash flow difficulties.



We would love the opportunity to meet you and show you in person how proud we are of what we do, so please do make an appointment to come to visit our nursery and meet our lovely team!

We would be delighted if you decide to entrust us with your child. In order to reserve a place, please return an enrolment form to us together with your £40 registration fee and a deposit of £150 which will be refunded when your child leaves the nursery providing that all terms and conditions are met.

Please ensure the form has a requested start date and if your baby is not yet born, an expected date of delivery.

**Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website [www.funcare.co.uk](http://www.funcare.co.uk) or please phone us and we will happily send one out by post.**