



PlayAway

Day Nursery
Part of the Funcare Family



PlayAway Day Nursery

34 Devonshire Place
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 4AD

Manager: Kirstie Thompson

Telephone: 01423 566696

Email: playaway@funcare.co.uk

Website: www.funcare.co.uk

Caring and fun for your children



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

Kirstie Thompson has a degree in Early Childhood Studies and is an Early Years Professional. She has many years experience working with children.

Josy Thompson



PlayAway Day Nursery is run by Josy and Ian Thompson (Funcare) with Dee Sturges as the Early Years Director, and Kirstie Thompson as Manager.

Josy and Ian are local parents who also run Little Dragons Day Nursery and Woodlands Day Nursery, before and after School Funclubs at Oatlands Infants School, St Peters, Rossett Acre and Pannal Schools.

Dee Sturges is a qualified teacher and an Early Years Professional with many years experience of childcare and Education.



Ian Thompson



Dee Sturges



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 always aim to improve and love to challenge ourselves to be the best we can and have been awarded the 'Gold' award for quality by North Yorkshire County Council.

We are consistently rated as high quality by OFSTED with some elements of 'excellent and outstanding practice' .

Your Key Person

The key person system is the foundation of everything that we do at PlayAway. It is our aim to form close relationships not only with

"The staff, in particular team leaders are exceptional, and along with key workers and management know each child well" Elaine Billiet



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 PlayAway 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 with us.



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!

“Children readily seek comfort and support from staff due to the close relationships formed and the consistent staff team” OFSTED

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

We are proud to be part of the Tiny Talk accredited programme.

Our staff are fully trained to sign with all children as part of our daily routine. This helps children communicate with us long before they have the verbal skills to do so.



the UK's favourite baby signing classes

Baby Room

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

Our baby room occupies the first floor of the nursery and is split into three different rooms.

“The quality of teaching is good through the nursery and outstanding in the baby room.”

OFSTED

This allows us the flexibility to cater for each baby's individual needs. We offer the best for our babies by providing:-

- A 'no shoe' zone
- Warm and caring key people who are responsible for meeting all of your child's personal care needs as well as building a secure attachment with your child
- An environment where we follow your home routine to ensure your baby feels comfortable and secure
- Delightful dream coracles that provide snuggly opportunities to rest, relax or sleep
- A cot room that provides a peaceful sleeping area with natural sounds to lull your baby to sleep.



- A magical sensory room which provides light, sound and texture experiences for the babies or, perhaps a little 'down time' during their very busy morning.
- All formula milk, food, nappies, nappy cream and suncream too, to make things easier for you.
- Wonderful sensory and heuristic play which allow babies to explore touch and texture with their WHOLE bodies, as well as through a whole load of messy play too!



Toddler Room



Action, exploring and building relationships

(2-3 years)

Our lovely light and airy toddler rooms are located on the ground floor, one either side of our hall.

- We understand that 2 year olds need to be able to move, climb, discover and explore with their bodies and our open ended resources support this learning as they figure out the world around them.
- It's also the time to build friendships so when the two rooms are linked the toddlers have a choice of where they would like to be and who they would like to be with.
- Two year olds love being messy too and 'messy play' is on offer throughout the day in various forms
- As our toddlers are very busy little people they still have the opportunity for naps on mattresses after lunch.



- Key people have special relationships with our children and as a result their learning and development is planned for every day on an individual basis.
- Our toddlers are encouraged to become independent in managing their toileting, trying shoes and coats by themselves and choosing what they would like for breakfast
- Some 2 year olds may be eligible for 15 hours free each week.(term time only) Please ask for more details.

“Staff are calm and provide reassurance to the children, enabling them to develop a positive sense of belonging from an early age.” OFSTED



Telephone: 01423 566696
Website: www.funccare.co.uk

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 for our older children.

As pre-school is all about getting your children 'ready for school' our three exciting and interesting rooms together with loving, caring and knowledgeable key people offer wonderful opportunities for the children to manage themselves and make their own choices throughout the day. Key people encourage and guide children in making their own decisions as well as supporting them in managing their own behaviour. This is important when making friends and learning to respect other people.

An awareness of letters and sounds and number concept activities are included throughout the day that develop pre-reading skills and expose the children to volume, capacity, measuring, weighing and pre-formal number skills. Exciting and challenging activities cover all areas of learning and development.



Our music maker sessions encourage children to explore sound, singing and dance. There is plenty of opportunity to stretch and bend and get active during these activities.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and learning is strongly based through play. 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.



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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!



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. It gives us the opportunity to learn about the beautiful flowers too.

“Overall, the nursery provides a good indoor and excellent outdoor curriculum that supports the children’s individual learning and development requirements in all areas.”

OFSTED

- Our pre-school children have free flow to the outdoors from both their rooms as well as a large hard surface area. Here they are able to enjoy the space and freedom to develop their physical skills, manage their own risks and challenges, as well as developing their gardening expertise!
- The toddlers have a natural area playground covered with woodchip. A leafy willow dome provides a natural ‘hidey’ place in the search for mini-beasts and a ‘buddy bench’ allows time to build those important friendships. There is a mud kitchen too to practice making amazing mud cakes and ‘herbal’ remedies!
- Our tiniest people enjoy a lovely turf and paved area to the front of the building. The herbs, colours and wind chimes provide natural sensory experiences for our babies. A lovely, leafy tree provides ample shade in the summer.



Meal times

Sample Menu:

Chicken stew with hidden courgettes, cous cous, peas and carrots

Apple sponge and custard

Mackerel and soft cheese pate

Fresh fruit

Our open plan kitchen allows children to interact with our cook learning about healthy foods – we use the ‘phunky foods’ guidance to ensure we provide good, wholesome meals.

- All our meals are freshly cooked on the premises by our nursery cook. We try to provide the children with as many of their 5 a day as possible 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 and then provide a hot two course main meal for lunch and a light tea. Please note that children will still require supper when they get home. A healthy snack is on offer during the morning
- We provide babies with the equivalent fruit and vegetable puree when weaning.
- We cater for all dietary requirements and allergies

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.

“Children enthusiastically sit down to a variety of home cooked meals including plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables”
OFSTED



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.

“Staff are proactive in seeking additional support and guidance to close any gaps in children’s learning, to help all children achieve their full potential” **OFSTED**

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 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



Admissions

Our nursery is open Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm 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.



*“Partnership with parents is excellent. From the first home visits, highly effective relationships are established with the key person. The open-door approach enables parents and carers to talk with their key person and other staff as and when they need to.” **OFSTED***

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website www.funcare.co.uk or please phone us and we will happily send one out by post.