

Happy Days has developed an ambitious, broad and balanced Early Years Curriculum titled “Where Children Shine”. It provides opportunities for children to learn, explore and discover, both indoors and outdoors, whilst attending a Happy Days Nursery.

The curriculum reflects Happy Days vision and values ensuring all children have the best possible start in life, enabling them to reach their full potential to become strong and motivated learners for life.

This play based curriculum supports the delivery of the seven Educational Programmes as defined within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. It values children as unique, strong, capable and resilient individuals and recognises that play is fundamental for children’s learning and development.

Offering suitable, age appropriate areas of continuous provision will support all educational programmes in the EYFS as well as Happy Days ‘Where Children Shine’ curriculum, so we can enable children to become Strong and Confident Communicators, Inquisitive and Ambitious Thinkers, Healthy, Independent Explorers and Resilient and Motivated Individuals.

Happy Days outdoor spaces support children in our care to become **Healthy Independent Explorers** – encouraging children to foster healthy and active habits which will influence lifelong health.

Happy Days nurseries create outdoor areas to be as flexible as possible by limiting the amount of fixed equipment to ensure the children have a variety of experiences. Outdoor spaces are enhanced with many natural resources and materials so that children can experience a different play environment to indoors.

On set up of the outdoor area we include many open ended resources such as pipes and guttering, den making materials, boxes, crates, blankets, mats, carpets, ropes, pipes, wheels pebbles, buckets etc , that have no fixed purpose but spark curiosity, innovation, creativity, questions, problems, ideas and emotions.

Planting and growing areas will be developed to include digging areas, plants and shrubs for attracting insects, small plastic tube green house, gardening tools and bags, bug hotel/house and bird tables.

Small physical apparatus for games – resources to include hula hoops, bean bags, balls and bats in a variety of shapes and sizes, these can be available for children to access and use independently and/or brought out as a ‘Let’s Move’ activity.

Seasonal resources and thinking kit bags – we will offer wet and windy kits to include kites, autumnal activities and resources, hot summers day resources ie squirty water bottles to fill with water, shades and drapes to provide additional shade.

Wheeled toys – These can be toys to be pushed for the younger babies and bikes for the older children – these do not need to be accessible at all times – we encourage the creation of designated space to park them in

Mark making outdoor opportunities – these can be endless and many different materials can be used to create large scale mark making.

Climbing and exploring – not all Happy Days Nurseries have a fixed climbing apparatus, instead we encourage colleagues to create a space that children can use their larger physical skills –this can be as simple as stacked tyres and balancing beams/logs/small ladders to create a physical area, this can be created and changed (with assistance) by the children.

Water and sand will be provided inside and outside, situated away from walkways to avoid spills and trips, when outside these activities will be located near a hose/tap so children can independently fill and wash/clean resources.

Mud Kitchen – ideally situated near an outside tap and near to or combined with the outdoor sand area. The provision of this area supports our children to foster an understanding, curiosity, and appreciation of their natural world, developing their awareness of the importance of environmental issues and sustainability.

At the point of handover from the developer the nursery is delivered as a ‘blank canvas’ enabling our own internal team to resource, furnish and finesse the children’s environments.

All curriculum areas highlighted above are carefully planned and delivered by the Happy Days quality team, the setting up of these areas form part of the training and induction for the newly appointed nursery team, thus supporting their understanding of Happy Days vision and values, which can then be cascaded to the growing team.

The outdoor area is developed over the months and seasons as the nursery grows and develops to support the individual learning of the children that attend the setting.

Our outdoor areas are used in all weathers, with the provision of free flow from the group rooms to encourage independence and decision making; sail shade posts will be installed in the garden area during the build phase, to be fitted with shades to provide shaded outdoor play during the summer months.

Case Study

Happy Days Lyde Green opened in March 2019 and was inspected by Ofsted in July 2022 where the nursery was awarded ‘Outstanding’, with the report highlighting that ‘the children are excited to enter this beautiful and thoughtfully designed nursery’.

This nursery also achieved the Woodland Trust Green Tree School Gold Award. To achieve this award the nursery have to evidence and demonstrate how they encourage inspiring outdoor learning to further children’s knowledge and understanding of trees, woodlands and wildlife. All Happy Days Nurseries are registered with the Woodland Trust Green Tree School Award, this includes all new nurseries that become part of the group

