



The Tiggywinkles Pre-School Ethos



The first five years of a child's life are fundamentally important. It is the foundation that shapes children's future health, happiness, growth, development and learning achievement at school, in the family and community, and in life in general. Children learn more quickly during their early years than at any other time in life. They need love and nurturing to develop a sense of trust and security that turns into confidence as they grow. We also strive to ensure that children are equipped with the essential skills that will give them a good head start in readiness for their transition to 'big school'.

Whilst following the EYFS curriculum, our ethos draws heavily upon the Montessori approach to education and the environment. The materials available to the children are considered for their importance and are constantly evolving in order to encourage deeper thinking and delve deeper into the children's interests. We focus on the children's innate desire to learn and children have an enormous capacity to do so when provided with an uncluttered environment, appropriate materials and are nurtured by caring adults who advocate individuality and provide opportunities for exploration.

With this in mind, our highly experienced and qualified Tiggywinkles team work closely together with the children, colleagues and parents/carers to ensure that every child's individual needs, emotional development and interests are championed and developed. We also recognise that children will thrive best in their learning if they feel emotionally secure, so we work hard to promote warm friendships and offer plenty of creative opportunities to learn through play.

We value and celebrate the diverse heritage of our country. The British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs are implicitly embedded in the 2014 Early Years Foundation Stage. We explore the world's religions, cultures and customs in a variety of ways, including song, dance, baking, art and play.

Finally, by developing close working relationships with parents, we aim to instill a life long love for learning and build secure foundations that will benefit the children throughout their lives. We operate an open door policy, have parent meetings and send reports home at regular intervals.

Tiggywinkles Pre-School Programme

At Tiggywinkles Pre-School, we believe that every day is a learning day. Even the most routine tasks can lead to learning which is not only enjoyable, but helps to give your child independence and the very best start in life.

The children freely choose what they want to do and the adults support their learning, ensuring that they have breadth and balance. Furthermore, by observing your child at play, and during regular group activities, we are able to plan and provide appropriately

for individual development. We recognise that children learn in different ways and at different rates and our aim is to support all children attending Tiggywinkles to ensure that they attain their maximum potential within their individual capabilities.

We maintain a personalised record of every child's development, noting their abilities, progress, interests and areas needing further staff or parental assistance. Your child's progress is also monitored through the use of a traditional Learning Journal and an easy-to-use online learning journal (Tapestry), which helps staff and parents to record, track and celebrate children's progress throughout their time at Tiggywinkles.

Lunch times are a social affair and children staying for lunch will be provided with homemade, nutritious and nourishing meals. All staff will sit with the children and model good eating habits and table manners. Whilst we actively encourage the children to try new foods, we will never force a child to eat and they will receive dessert/fruit regardless of what has been eaten during the main meal.

Our highly experienced staff will help your child to enjoy learning by:

- taking part in everyday tasks and making them fun!
- promoting opportunities for choices, taking responsibility, making decisions and solving problems.
- providing a safe and stimulating environment in which your child feels happy and secure.
- showing we are interested in your child's learning. We will ask questions, listen and give lots of praise and use a reward system to encourage positive behaviours.
- using new and familiar words to extend and enrich your child's vocabulary, understanding and awareness of sounds and language development.
- enabling and facilitating play. The children will be able to experience high quality, stimulating play experiences as part of their daily lives. Our staff will show your child how to play, share, take turns, make friends and develop positive relationships.
- providing stimulating and exciting opportunities to engage your child's interest and imagination both indoors and out.
- encouraging your child to reach their full potential!

We provide active learning experiences, regardless of age and stage.

During your child's time spent at Tiggywinkles Pre-School, we aim to provide them with rich and varied opportunities to develop into successful learners, confident, caring individuals and responsible citizens.

The pre-school is set up into the various sections that relate to the Early Years Activities that the children will have the opportunity to experience include:

- Materials that will encourage mark-making, drawing and writing
- Literacy materials that will encourage early reading skills
- Books, puppets and listening

- Puzzles and fine motor skill activities
- Sensory and manipulative skills
- Number and maths
- Exploring and investigating
- Sand and water
- Creative area for painting, modelling, making woodwork, play dough
- Imaginative play including kitchen and house area
- Music and drama
- Treasure baskets
- Loose materials play using everyday objects
- Building and construction
- Small world play
- Interactive resources including I-Pads and new technologies
- Cooking, baking, science activities and art appreciation
- Lots of outdoor activities, such as planting, growing and investigating the world around them.
- Activities that help the children understand the importance of looking after the environment, including looking after our pre-school pets
- Experiencing different cultural activities and celebrations
- Role play and dressing up

At Tiggywinkles Pre-School, you can be confident that:

- Highly experienced, qualified staff are flexible and responsible to your child's personal, emotional, educational and physical needs
- We safeguard and protect all children by adopting vigorous Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. All staff have been fully DBS checked and child protection (safeguarding) training when they are appointed and regular refresher training thereafter to keep their knowledge up to date. Furthermore, every staff member has undertaken a Paediatric First Aid Course.
- We will provide your child with a range of rich and varied learning opportunities which will help them to develop into successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors
- Your child will experience and choose from a wide range of high-quality programmes and activities that are planned, designed, evaluated and implemented by staff, taking account of national and local guidelines
- We will promote ambition and high expectations for every child within our care.
- We operate an open door policy and actively promote close parent/carers partnerships that further enhance every child's learning and development

Tiggywinkles Pre-School Winkfield, Popels Hall, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire,
SL4 4SG Phone: 01344 885072;

email: tiggywinkleswinkfield@gmail.com; web: tiggywinklespreschool.co.uk;

Facebook: @tiggywinkleswinkfield; Twitter: @Tiggy_Winkfield;

Instagram: [tiggywinklespreschoolwinkfield](https://www.instagram.com/tiggywinklespreschoolwinkfield/);

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