

# WHY CHOOSE

# DUCKKLINGS

Pre-school



FOUNDED IN 2000, DUCKKLINGS PRESCHOOL STRIVES TO CREATE AN OUTSTANDING, LOVING, CARING ATMOSPHERE IN A SAFE AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

☎ 07828 807290

🌐 [www.ducklingspreschool.co.uk](http://www.ducklingspreschool.co.uk)

# ABOUT US

A family-owned business established in 2000, Ducklings Preschool strives to create an outstanding, loving, caring atmosphere in safe and friendly environments!

At Ducklings, we value children and their parents. We acknowledge that parents are the first educators of children, therefore we prioritise **working in partnership with you**.

This strong bond is paramount to children's learning and development, we achieve this through face-to-face updates, regular updates of observations on EyLog, up-to-date newsletters, fun Stay and Play sessions where parents and carers can enjoy time at Ducklings experiencing the opportunities children have when they attend Ducklings, a wide variety of celebrations throughout the year, along with various fundraising events, and free online resources to use at home which can be found throughout our website, blog, and digital platforms!

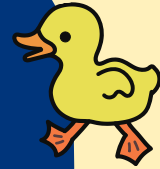
Furthermore, Ducklings is proud to announce that each of our sites has a named SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator), as well as a company SENCO Manager who further supports all the sites.



**JOIN US NOW!**



# HOW CAN I AFFORD FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?



**So you wish to attend 3 or more sessions a week, but are confused about how you can afford it?**

**Here's some useful information for you to know,**

All children aged 3 years or older are entitled to 15 hours' worth of funded childcare per week of education.

Additionally, depending on your circumstances, other discounts are available to help offset costs too!

These include:

- **Free childcare** – for two-year-olds if you receive certain state benefits
- **15 hours per week of free childcare** – (minimum) for three to four-year-olds, rising to **30 hours per week** for working families
- **Tax-Free Childcare (TFC)** – covering up to 20% of costs for a maximum of £2,000 per child/year if you earn at least the **National Minimum Wage or Living Wage** per 16 hours/week.
- **Universal Credit** – if you have a low income, you can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs



As of **April 2024** this entitlement is changing! Please check out the Gov.uk website for the most up to date information.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>



# WHY CHOOSE A PRIVATE PRESCHOOL, LIKE DUCKLINGS, OVER A SCHOOL PRESCHOOL?

## *"Will my child experience a better learning environment at a school nursery?"*

No, all nurseries and preschools - regardless of whether they're privately owned or part of a school - follow the exact same EYFS curriculum (Early Years Foundation Stage).

## *"Will my child receive the same level of care at a school nursery?"*

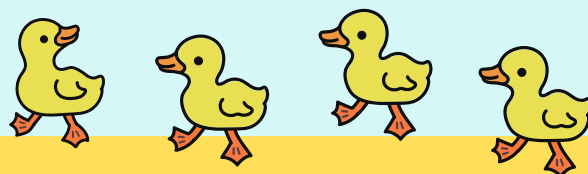
Not necessarily; However, privately owned preschools, like Ducklings, have to follow the **1:8 staff-to-child ratio** for children aged 3 and older. School nurseries only have to follow the ratio of 1:13 - Meaning 26 children with only two adults to supervise, observe, and promote learning!

## *"How would my child's learning differ at each?"*

School preschools are more likely to take a very formal topic-led teaching approach. Which might not be best for your child's stage of development, making them less likely to become involved in learning. **Ducklings preschool follows a more child-centred ethos**, where learning sessions are based on your child's individual interests and needs. Our staff support ongoing development, and promote progression and learning through play-based activities, to increase their engagement.

## *"What about having a key person for my child?"*

At Ducklings, your child is paired with a member of staff, their key person, who performs observations, and will be your contact throughout your time here. Unfortunately, this may not be the case in school nurseries - and with 1 staff member to observe 13 children, it's questionable whether they can provide that personal level of attention and assistance to you and your child.



TO LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT THIS, CHECK OUT OUR BLOG  
"BENEFITS OF PRIVATE NURSERIES VS SCHOOL NURSERIES"  
[WWW.DUCKLINGSPRESCHOOL.CO.UK/BLOG](http://WWW.DUCKLINGSPRESCHOOL.CO.UK/BLOG)



# HOW OFTEN SHOULD MY CHILD ATTEND PRESCHOOL?



## How often should my child attend preschool to benefit from it?

Regardless of how many sessions your child attends, attending any preschool sessions will benefit them in building their social skills, increasing their concentration, improving their self-esteem and confidence, strengthening their communication skills, and giving them a head-start in their education path.

Due to this, there is no right or wrong answer as to how many days your child should attend preschool. However, at Ducklings, we believe attending three days a week is ideal, as it provides your child with more time to adjust to a group environment, build deeper friendships, become more comfortable around the staff, and experience and learn a lot more.



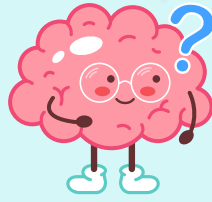
To read more about this, check out these external links!

<https://winnie.com/post/3-year-old-preschool-when-16af2793>

&

<https://www.mumsnet.com/talk/preschool/2262927-How-many-sessions-a-week-does-your-3-year-old-do-at-pre-school-nursery-day-care>

# Let's discuss the importance of attending preschool on the brains development!



Preschool education exposes children to positive and stimulating experiences, and has a major impact on their development throughout life!

Let's look into the research which discusses this further;

Martha Farah, the director of the center for neuroscience and society at the University of Pennsylvania, led a twenty-year study to find out how a normal range of experiences in childhood might influence the development of the brain, and the results were fascinating! **The study showed that the development of the cortex in late teens was closely correlated with a child's cognitive stimulation at the age of four!** She further claimed that these results were evidence for the existence of a sensitive period of a person's life, that determined the optimal development of the cortex, further supporting the importance of attending preschool.

Another study, performed by Andrea Danese, a clinical lecturer in child and adolescent psychiatry at King's College London, **found that children who experienced a nurturing home environment and childhood could have a positive effect on brain development regardless of familial, genetic, predispositions to better brains** - further supporting that early years experiences play a "tremendous role" in enabling children to develop their cognitive, social, and emotional skills.

To read more about this, please search for the article '*Childhood stimulation key to brain development, study finds*' by Alok Jha, science correspondent.

A collage of colorful papers and hands, with a yellow banner reading "CONTACT US TODAY".

**CONTACT US  
TODAY**





"I COULDN'T HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER PRESCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN. THE STAFF ARE **VERY WARM AND CARING**, THERE'S PLENTY OF PLAY, CREATIVE ACTIVITY AND ENCOURAGEMENT AND MY CHILDREN HAVE LOVED EVERY MINUTE"

MELISSA

"**FANTASTIC NURSERY**, ALWAYS MET MY DAUGHTER'S NEEDS. SHE ALWAYS ENJOYS HER TIME THERE. MY DAUGHTER HAS COME OUT OF HER SHELL SINCE BEING A DUCKLING. **THE STAFF ARE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!** I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND"

RICKY

"**THIS PRE-SCHOOL IS EXCELLENT**, ALL THE KEY WORKERS ARE **FRIENDLY, CARING AND ATTENTIVE**. MY SON LIAM LOOKS FORWARD TO GOING EVERY DAY AND REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE FOR 'BIG' SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER!"

GARETH

"WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR LEAH OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. **YOU HAVE HELPED HER GROW IN CONFIDENCE**, PROVIDED A WONDERFUL ENVIRONMENT FOR HER TO PLAY IN AND FORM FRIENDSHIPS AND TAUGHT HER SO MUCH."

ELLIE

# We are proudly the MK Inspiring School Award Winner



MILTON KEYNES INSPIRATION  
AWARDS

**Thank you for taking the time to learn a bit more about Ducklings Preschool!**

**We hope this has helped provide you with a more in-depth look into Ducklings, and we hope to welcome you and your child into our Ducklings Family. So please, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any more questions or enquiries, we're happy to help!**

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