

# WHY CHOOSE

# DUCKKLINGS



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

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[www.duckklingspreschool.co.uk](http://www.duckklingspreschool.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 Class Dojo, 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!

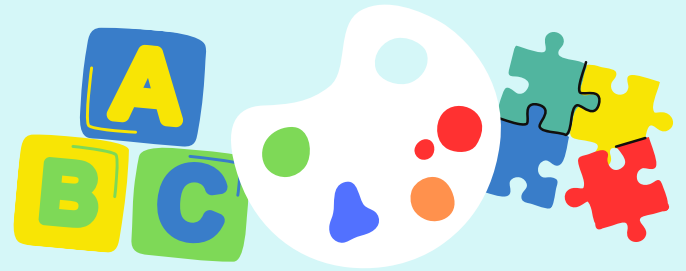
Furthermore, Ducklings is proud to announce that each of our sites has a named **SENCO** (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator), as well as TWO company SENCO Managers who further support all the sites.



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



We have better staff-to-child ratios! We follow a 1:8 ratio as opposed to a schools 1:13!



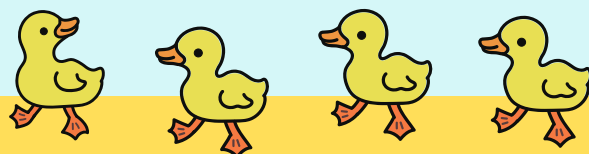
We follow the exact same Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum as schools!



We follow a child-centred ethos, where learning follows your child's interests and needs, to increase their engagement!



Your child is paired with a key person, providing a stronger level of attention and assistance to you and your child!



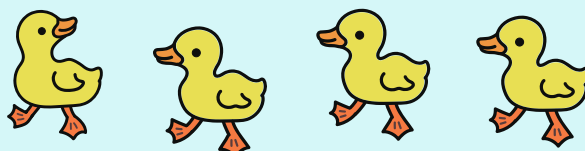
TO LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT THIS, CHECK OUT OUR BLOG  
"BENEFITS OF PRIVATE NURSERIES VS SCHOOL NURSERIES"  
[WWW.DUCKLINGSPRESCHOOL.CO.UK/BLOG](http://WWW.DUCKLINGSPRESCHOOL.CO.UK/BLOG)

# WHY CHOICE DUCKLINGS OVER OTHERS?



- We have been proudly operating across Milton Keynes and Manchester since 2000 - with over 24 years of experience.
- All of our settings have been awarded either Outstanding or Good by Ofsted - an achievement we are so proud of!
- We are a family-run business, so there will always be someone available to talk and help! and yes, that includes the weekends and holidays!
- Our staff are highly qualified and experienced! Feel free to check out our website's homepage to see all of our staff's latest achievements.
- Our staff-to-child ratios are usually **one adult to every 8 children**; despite the legal requirement being one adult to thirteen! We believe children learn best when there is ample adult attention to further support their play, development, and learning!
- We follow the EYFS curriculum and tailor fun and engaging learning environments to meet the needs of the children, all planned out by our qualified team.
- Every Ducklings setting has an engaging outside play area which is used daily! These are full of scooters, bikes, mud kitchens, sports games, gardening tools and more!
- We truly believe that children should be an active part of their local communities! As such we invite our local police, ambulance, and fire services to educate the children - we also do trips to our local shops or food markets, and sometimes even to local parks, farms, and petting zoos!
- **We fundraise whenever we can**, recently we have raised funds for Children in Need, Mind (the mental health charity), Crackerjacks Children's Trust, and soon Macmillan cancer support.
- Have I mentioned we have also been rated either Outstanding or Good by Ofsted yet?

**BUT PLEASE, DON'T TAKE JUST OUR WORD FOR IT! CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR TESTIMONIALS AND REVIEWS ONLINE!**



# WHAT'S THE COST?

**Ducklings accepts ALL Government funding entitlements (such as the 15 and 30 hours free childcare) as well as paid sessions! If you'd like to know what our daily costs are, please call us on 07476 079904.**

**Here's some useful information for you to know, All children** aged 3-4 years are entitled to 15 hours worth of funded childcare per week of education.

**Eligible working families** in England, for children aged 2-4 years, may be entitled to either 15 hours OR 30 hours worth of funded childcare!

## **Additional financial help:**

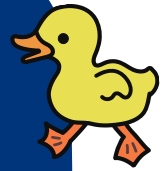
- **Free** 15 hour childcare – for two-year-olds, if you receive certain state benefits.
- **Tax-Free Childcare (TFC)** – Get up to £2000 per child, for working families in the UK, earning under £100K (and an average of £183 a week).
- **National Minimum Wage or Living Wage** per 16 hours/week.
- **Universal Credit** – if you have a low income, you can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs for children under 17 years old.
- **Tax Credit for Childcare** – up to a cap of 70% of childcare costs, for children under 16.
- **Support while studying** – weekly grants, and further help.



Check what are you entitled for at  
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



# 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.



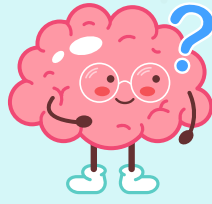
To read more about this, check out these articles!

<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>

# AND FINALLY, 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.

