Admissions Policy

At Small Steps Day Nursery we care for 30 children between the ages of 9 months and 4 years.

The numbers and ages of children admitted to the nursery comply with the legal space requirements set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). When considering admissions we are mindful of staff: child ratios and the facilities available at the nursery.

The nursery uses the following admission criteria, which is applied in the following order of priority:

1. Children who have siblings who are already with us
2. Looked after children
3. A child known by the local authority to have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) and whose needs can be best met at the preferred nursery
4. A vulnerable child with either a Child Protection or a Child in Need Plan, or in receipt of other local authority support
5. Children whose parents live within the area.

A child requiring a full-time place may have preference over one requiring a part-time place. This is dependent upon work commitments, occupancy and room availability. We operate a waiting list and places are offered on an availability basis. We arrange the list in order of when you submitted the waiting list form, however, if we cannot offer all the sessions you require, we may move on to the next person to fill empty places.

We operate an Inclusion and equality policy and ensure that all children have access to nursery places and services irrespective of their gender, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation of parents.

Prior to a child starting nursery, parents must complete and sign a contract and registration form. These forms provide the nursery with personal details relating to the child. For example, name, date of birth, address, emergency contact details, parental responsibilities, dietary requirements, collection arrangements, fees and sessions, contact details for parents, doctor’s contact details, health visitor contact details, allergies, parental consent and vaccinations etc.

**Providers eligible to provide government funded places for early education**

All settings registered to accept government funding must offer the funded places for two and three- to five-year-olds for early learning sessions specified by the local authority. At Small Steps Day Nursery, we currently provide government funded places for children; this is subject to availability. These places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please note for the admissions of the government funded nursery education places these will begin the term following your child’s second or third birthday.

All funded sessions are now in line with the flexible arrangement as specified by the Government. When you register your child for their funded place, we will discuss your needs and, as far as possible with availability and staffing arrangements, we will accommodate your wishes. We reserve the right to limit and/or have specific funded sessions, according to our business requirements. The maximum funded sessions will be 12 hours per week (15 hours) or 23.5 hours per week (30 hours).

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| 10/10/2023 | R. Simmonds | Oct 2024 |