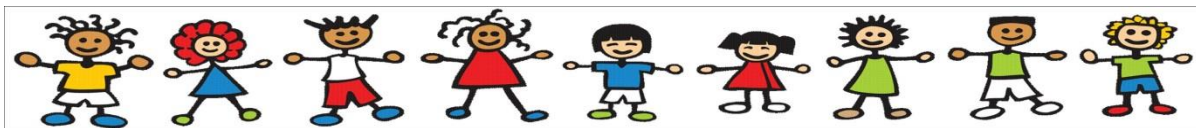


Welcome to Conkers, the nursery that always puts children and families first.

CONKERS Nursery is registered with OFSTED and run by experienced qualified staff and is part of the Balsam Centre Charity. Conkers provides a year-round service that children can access full or part-time, from 3 months to school age with funded places where applicable.

Based on the lower floor of the Balsam Centre, we have sole use of a large nursery room which has free flow access to the large secure outdoor garden and orchard area.

Conkers Staff Team are enthusiastic and passionate about providing the best early years care and education for your child.



Opening Times

We are open from 8am to 5.30pm Mondays to Fridays. We close for the Christmas/New Year period and all Bank Holidays. In addition, the nursery is closed for five staff training days. We give at least one month's notice and our aim is to provide the 5 dates for the school year in September.

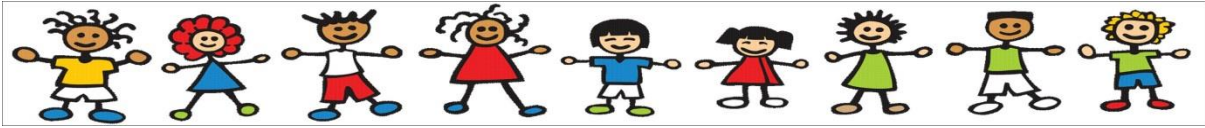
You can choose between:

Morning sessions, start times 8am or 9am and finish 12 noon or 1pm.

Afternoon sessions start at 1pm to 4pm, 5pm or 5.30pm.

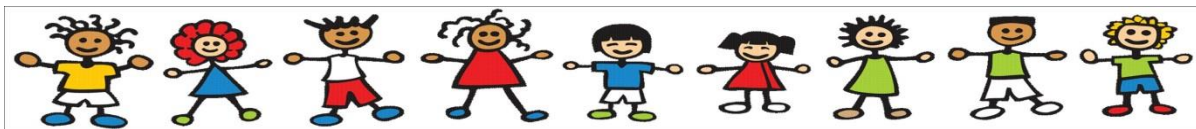
All day sessions start 8am or 9am and finish 3pm, 4pm, 5pm or 5.30pm

If your child is staying to lunch, you will need to provide them with a packed lunch. Children eat their lunch together with staff in a very sociable environment. Milk and healthy snacks are provided free of charge mid-morning and mid-afternoon and fresh water is always available.



Our Ethos

Our community nursery is one where we see children thrive in a nurturing environment, where they are encouraged to choose their own activities, which enables them to develop independence and build up resilience, in an holistic setting where nature is easily accessible.



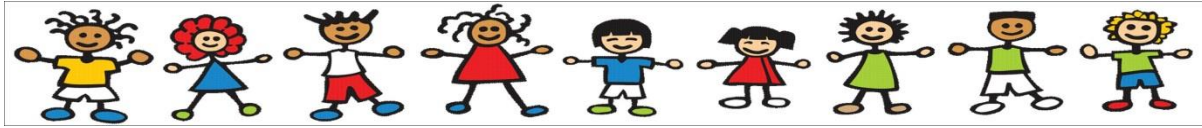
Parents and Staff Working Together

Two-way communication is important for your child in nursery and we are always interested to hear about precious moments at home. You can do this in person or by writing a note on Tapestry our online learning journal. Our babies have a daily record of feeds, nappy changes, sleep and other information.

The Importance of Play.

Children learn through play. They develop language and communication skills, social understanding, physical abilities, problem solving and creative thinking skills through their play and interactions. "Play is a child's work" (Jean Piaget)

At Conkers we encourage children to get dirty and muddy during their play - Here's why... Play is essential for all areas of your child's growth and development. Research has shown that getting muddy has health benefits for your child. Mud play can stimulate the release of serotonin which helps with relaxation and happiness. Exposure to some dirt can help build up immune systems and help reduce allergies.

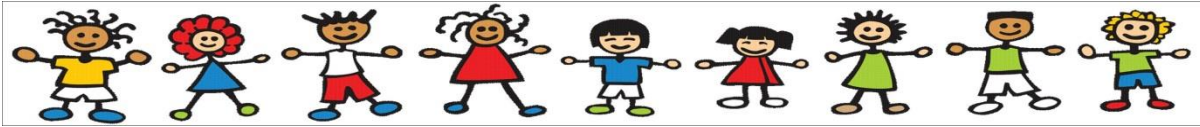


A vast wealth of learning can take place when playing with mud, developing language and communication skills, gross and fine motor skills, mathematical problem solving, science experiments and social skills of sharing and cooperation among others. Mud is an open-ended resource which can be used in so many different ways, there is no right or wrong way to explore it, so it is therefore inclusive for all ages and stages of development.

Our **Forest School** area is under development, we aim to run sessions in our own orchard area and have an outdoor classroom.

Children really enjoy playing freely in a natural environment, with the added bonus that they learn lots of life skills through their exploration.

"Play is the highest level of child development. It gives joy, freedom, contentment, inner and outer rest, peace with the world." (Friedrich Froebel)

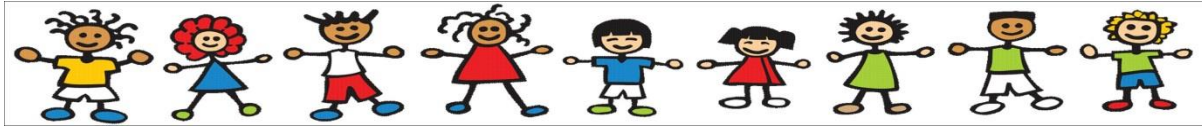


In The Moment Planning

At Conkers our children are free to play indoors or outdoors for almost the whole day. We provide an enabling environment which allows learning opportunities to take place in all areas. We constantly monitor the levels of children's involvement in activities using the Leuven Scale. Important brain connections are happening when a child is deeply involved in an activity, meaning that learning is taking place. Our staff will enhance and extend this learning by closely observing your child during play and interacting with them in a sensitive way so as not to disturb their play.

Flexible Settling In

As every child is unique, we have a flexible settling in period. Some children settle very quickly and others take a little longer, so we tailor this period to meet your needs. Once settled each child will be allocated a Key Person.



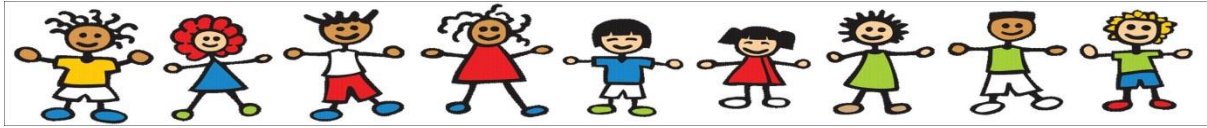
Fees

Fees are payable monthly in advance. Arrangements can be made for weekly payment in advance. Please see our Fees Policy.

All Children (0-4 years) £5.20 per hour.

We offer year round and term time only contracts.

Parents of children who are in receipt of government funding (3-4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds) can choose to spread the funded hours over 12 months rather than having a term time only contract. This enables your child to attend nursery for approximately 11 hours per week for 51 weeks or 22 hours a week if eligible for 30hr funding.



We do not charge for the period between Christmas and New Year, Bank Holidays or staff training days.

Children attending on a year round contract may take 2 full weeks as holiday during the year at a 50% discount. These must be taken as a full week (child's usual attendance hours) and a month's notice is required.

Thank you for taking the time to look at our prospectus. If you like what you have read, come along, meet the team and join in the fun !