



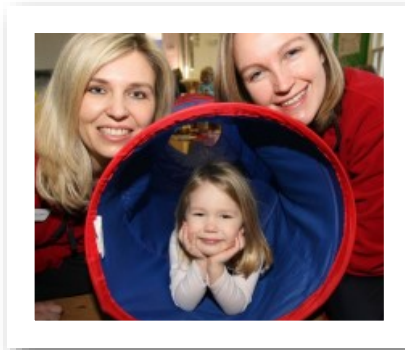
# Outstanding Care

For children from  
3 months to 5 years





My name is Abby Auty, I am co-founder and co-owner of Red Balloon. Caroline and I established Red Balloon in 2004. We originally met at ante-natal classes when we were both expecting our first child and we soon became firm friends. We both returned to work after maternity leave and were disappointed that we were unable to



# Welcome To Red Balloon!

find a nursery which met our high standards. We were seeking an exceptional quality of care which mirrored our own values as parents but we found that local nurseries failed to fulfil our high expectations. So, fuelled by our passion to deliver truly outstanding childcare, we established Red Balloon with an aim to providing everything we, as mothers ourselves, feel like-minded parents would want for their children and themselves....





# Welcome To Red Balloon!



Our approach has always been from the perspective of a parent which, coupled with the extensive skills and childcare experience of our teams, creates the unique environment that is Red Balloon.

At Red Balloon we foster a home-from-home environment within nurturing and safe surroundings where all children can feel relaxed, happy and self-assured.

We aim to provide a stimulating environment which offers every opportunity to learn, to create and to explore. Whilst recognising the importance of social, intellectual and academic development, we are also

only too aware that children are only children once so having lots and lots of fun is always at the top of our agenda.

At Red Balloon we pride ourselves on truly knowing the children in our care as individuals and understanding their specific family circumstances. We respect the fact that all children think, feel, behave and develop in different ways and at different rates. We aim to enable children to express their individuality and to set their own pace. We value the diversity of all the children in our care and celebrate their differences.

Our aspiration is to consistently exceed your expectations by providing truly outstanding care for your child; continuous improvement is at the heart of our ethos. The most important way in which we seek to deliver on our promises to parents is through the Red Balloon team. At Red Balloon we aim to recruit well-qualified individuals with a wealth of different skills and experience who most importantly display a genuine passion for children and an absolute dedication to providing the highest standards in quality care.



Red Balloon is an independent Children's Day Nursery which opened in May 2004.

274 Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1HU

Telephone: 01932 866505.

Email: [cobham@red-balloon.co.uk](mailto:cobham@red-balloon.co.uk)

07:30 – 18:30, Monday- Friday

51 weeks per year (closed Christmas week)

## Our Premises

The property, formerly a BT Telephone Repeater Station, underwent extensive re-development involving the addition of a second storey to the existing building and a large single storey extension to the rear. In this way we were able to create a purpose-built provision within a charming and traditional original building.

## Location

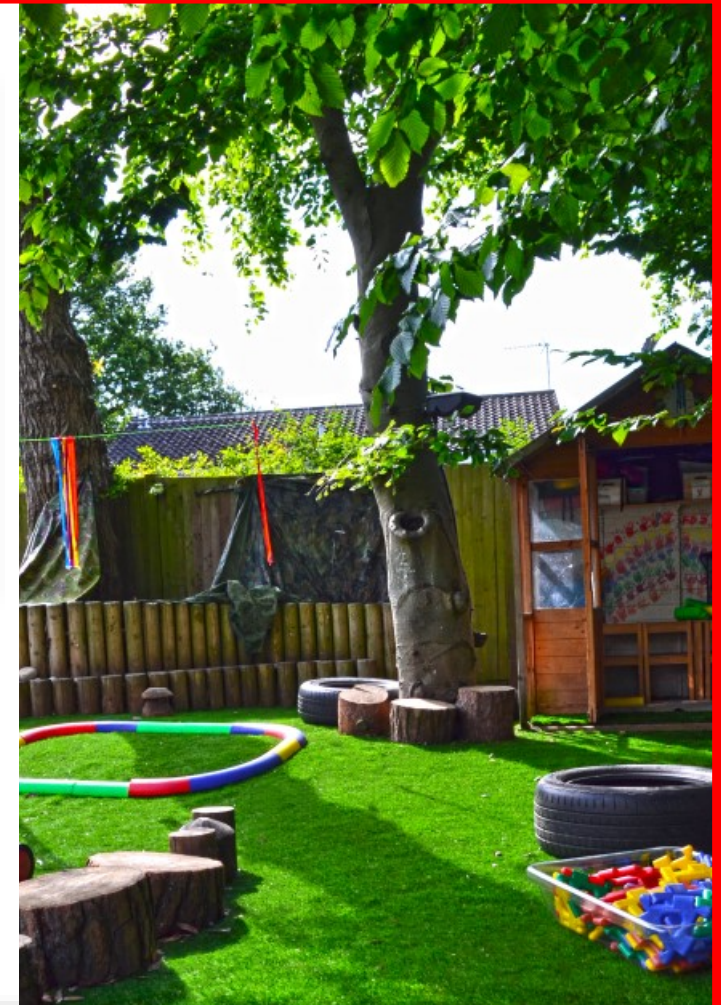
Situated in a prominent position on the South side of the Portsmouth Road (A307) between Cobham and Esher, the site offers easy access for parents dropping off and picking up their children. The grounds extend to approximately ¼ acre.

## Car Parking

There is a large car park at the front of the building accessed through electronically operated security gates from the Portsmouth Road.



# The Nursery



At Red Balloon we believe safety and security are paramount and we insist upon uncompromising safety standards at all times.

The entrance to the nursery is fitted with a high security fob access control system.

The fob allows parents to access the entrance porch only. Visual identification must then be made via a

CCTV camera before any visitors to the nursery are allowed to enter the premises.

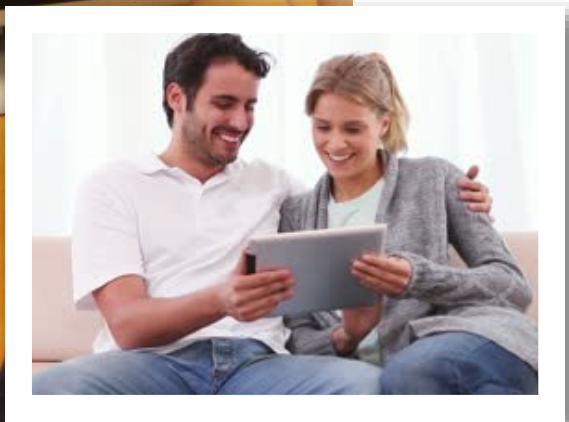
For maximum reassurance we have 16 CCTV cameras located throughout the building both internally and externally. All CCTV images are stored for 1 month.

# Safe & Sound

## Live Webcam

At Red Balloon we believe in complete transparency. Webcam is a means of allowing parents to maintain a

sense of proximity to their child even when they are separated during the day. Parents and relatives will be issued with a unique password which will give you the ability to watch your child within the nursery setting in real time via the internet from any remote computer. Webcam employs military graded security technologies to ensure complete exclusion of unauthorised access. We hope that our webcam facility will serve both as a means of reassuring you and of giving you a greater sense of involvement in the time that your child spends at nursery.



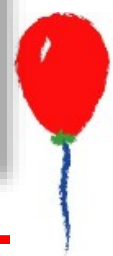
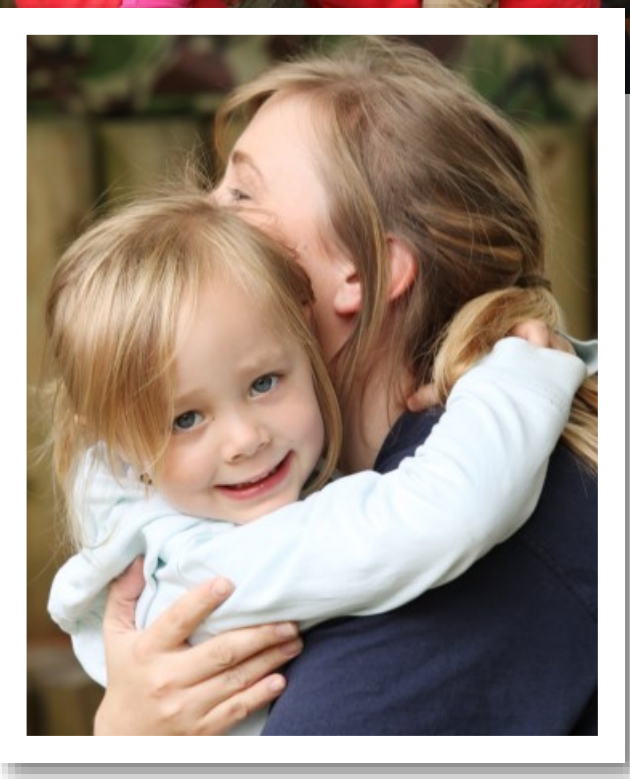


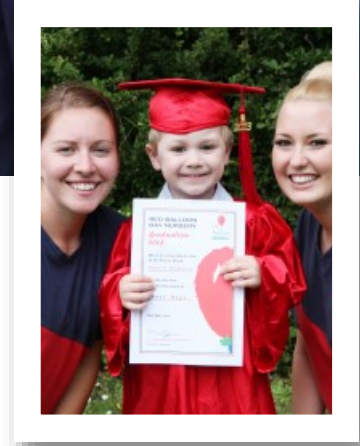
# Special People For Special People



**Excellent staff are the single most important element of an excellent nursery.**

We operate a stringent and demanding recruitment process in order to select the highest quality, well-qualified and experienced staff who display absolute dedication to providing the highest standards in childcare and a genuine commitment to the safety, development and wellbeing of the children in their care.





## Special People For Special People

The Red Balloon team has a broad range of skills and experience. A majority of the team hold qualified status (NVQ3 or equivalent) and those who are not already qualified are currently working towards a qualification. All staff have access to diverse training opportunities in order to develop themselves as individuals and to achieve continuous improvement within the nursery.

At Red Balloon we try as a matter of principle to employ higher ratios of staff to children than those required by Ofsted. Our philosophy is the more hands on deck the better which means children in our care receive greater individual attention.

We have a policy to avoid using agency staff in order to ensure continuity of care for the children. To this end we have a fantastic support team who are able to assist when our permanent team members are ill or on holiday. Our support team work regularly in the nursery so their faces are

always familiar to the children and they understand fully how we work at Red Balloon.

All staff are required to hold a recent first aid qualification and all staff are subject to police, health and reference checks.

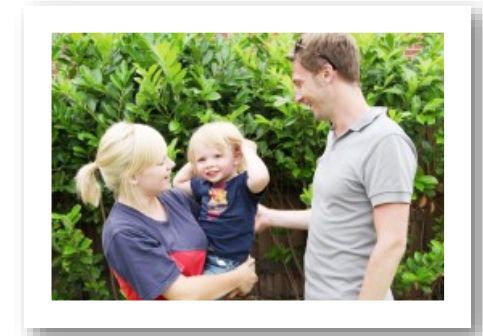
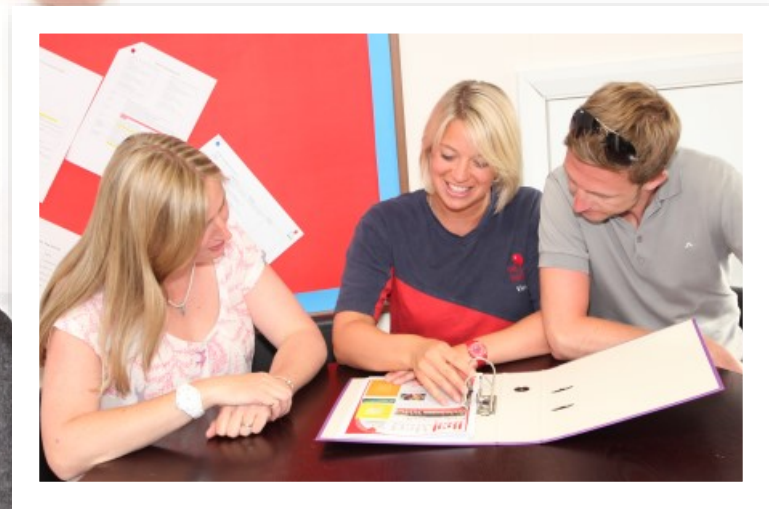




At Red Balloon we believe parents are children's first and most enduring educators. We work in close partnership with parents and use parental knowledge and expertise to support the learning opportunities we provide.



# Teamwork Let's work together



We believe that good communication is key to developing good relationships. We operate an open door policy and parents are always welcome to discuss any issues relating to their child or the nursery at any time.





# Teamwork Let's work together



At Red Balloon we use Tapestry, an innovative and interactive online learning journal. Tapestry enables us to record, track and celebrate children's development: this unique journal is shared online with parents, who are able to see special moments and view their child's progress.



Each child is assigned to a key worker who has responsibility for monitoring their progress and maintaining development records. We hold regular parents evenings which give you the opportunity to discuss your child's development profile with their key worker.

We recognise that leaving a child at nursery for the first time is not easy and can be an unsettling time for both parents and children. We will try to ease this process by offering a complimentary settling in

period for your child which will comprise an unrestricted number of settling in sessions, including an initial introductory visit to your home, which will give you the opportunity to discuss your child's individual needs and routine with their keyworker.

The need to be kept informed is paramount to the standard of customer care and good quality practice within the nursery. General notices are displayed in the entrance hall and room-specific notices are displayed on the notice boards outside the rooms. A

newsletter is distributed weekly and our popular ClarionCall system enables us to communicate with parents day-to-day by email and text.

Parents are invited to attend various information evenings throughout the year as well as bi-annual Parent Consultation Group forums which give us the opportunity to seek parents' views and to share our plans.

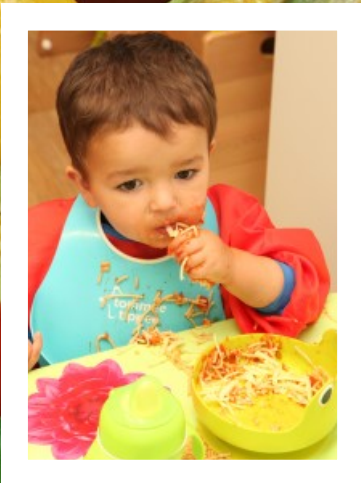
# You Are What You Eat

At Red Balloon we believe children should eat a wholesome, balanced diet.

Our healthy and nutritious meals are home-cooked on site using fresh produce. All our meat and poultry is sourced from local producers and suppliers and is of exceptional quality. We always use free range eggs and organic milk supplied by West Horsley Dairies.



As a nursery we believe that we have an ideal opportunity to help every child eat well, enjoy a varied diet and establish healthy eating habits to take with them into their school years. We follow the Children's Food Trust voluntary guidelines - Eat Better, Start Better - in order to provide healthy, balanced and nutritious food and drink. Encouraging children to eat well and learn about food in their early years not only protects their health when they are young, but also sets the foundations for their future health and wellbeing.





# You Are What You Eat

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>BREAKFAST</b>	Cereal selection, toast with spread, apple slices & whole milk	Vanilla yoghurt, bananas, fruit tea, loaf and fruit juice	Hard boiled eggs, wholemeal muffin with spread, pear slices & milk	Cereal selection, croissant, strawberry slices and organic milk	Cereal selection, crumpets, banana slices and organic milk
<b>MORNING SNACK</b>	Rice cakes, bananas & whole milk	Carrot + pepper sticks, breadsticks and organic milk	Oatcakes, soft cheese and strawberry's and organic milk	Wholemeal pitta, tzatziki, cucumber sticks and organic milk	Grapes, cheese cubes and breadsticks with organic milk
<b>LUNCH</b>	Tomato and basil sauce with wholemeal spaghetti. Served with grated cheese	Fish Crumble with new potatoes broccoli and corn.	Roast lamb, roasted new potatoes, cabbage and carrot batons, Yorkshire pudding, mint sauce and gravy	Sweet and sour chicken with rice	Lentil thatch with cauliflower and peas
<b>VEGGIE ALTERNATIVE</b>		Tofu crumble, new potatoes, broccoli and corn	Veggie sausage roast	Edamame sweet and sour vegetables and rice.	
<b>WEANING</b>		Fish in parsley sauce, new potatoes, broccoli and corn	Roast lamb medley	Chicken and vegetable casserole and rice	Lentil casserole, cauliflower and peas
<b>PUDDING</b>	Strawberry yoghurt and strawberry slices	Dried fruit	watermelon	Ginger biscuit with pear slices	Fruit platter
<b>AFTERNOON SNACK</b>	Melba toast, soft cheese and cucumber slices	Mango and pineapple	Apple and banana	Cheese cubes, cherry tomato and breadsticks	Oatcakes, spread and cucumber slices
<b>TEA</b>	Jacket potato with chilli con carne and sour cream	Vegetable frittata with baked beans	Cauliflower and broccoli cheese bake with crispy wholemeal bread	Sticky sausages in a bun with red pepper and cucumber crudities	Sandwich section with carrot sticks and cherry tomatoes
<b>VEGGIE ALTERNATIVE</b>	Jacket potato with veg and bean chilli and sour cream			Sticky vegetable sausages in a bun with red pepper and cucumber crudities	
<b>WEANING</b>	Jacket potato with savoury minced beef	Jacket potato with cheese and beans	Cauliflower and broccoli cheese bake	Sausage hot pot	Tomato and basil pasta bake
<b>PUDDING</b>	Cinnamon swirl	Ice cream and banana slices	Rice crispy cake	Melon and grapes	Plum muffin

Sample Menu

The cultural background and dietary requirements of every child is fully respected and we work with parents to ensure that their child's individual needs are catered for.

At Red Balloon we enjoy mealtimes as happy, social and relaxed occasions. Breakfast is served between 08.00 and 08.30, lunch at 12.00 and tea at 16.30. Children are offered a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon snack comprising for example home-baked biscuits and fruit.

Children are encouraged to try different things and to develop good table manners. We introduce children to tastes of different cultures and encourage them to develop their own culinary skills in regular cooking sessions.

Red Balloon is a tooth-friendly nursery. 'Stop the Rot' aims to prevent as much tooth decay in your child as possible. We promote good dental health by minimising sugar in our menu, offering healthy snack choices and cleaning teeth after meals. Good habits last a lifetime.

We are proud to hold a Food Hygiene Rating of 5, Very Good, the highest achievable score.



Green Room accommodates 12 children aged from 3 to 18 months.

Green Room has an intimate, cherishing atmosphere simply bursting with hugs and cuddles. In Green Room we mirror the routine enjoyed by your child at home thus ensuring a gentle transition from home to nursery.

The children are encouraged to learn through play and are offered a whole host of opportunities to explore through a wide variety of exciting (and sometimes extremely messy!) experiences.



# Growing Spaces Green Room



Green Room is fully equipped with en-suite nappy changing facilities and an adjoining milk kitchen. There is an adjacent sleeping room where fibre optic lighting resembling twinkling stars provides a tranquil setting for peaceful slumber. A fenced-off garden area accessed directly from the room gives plenty of opportunities for fresh air and safe outdoor fun.



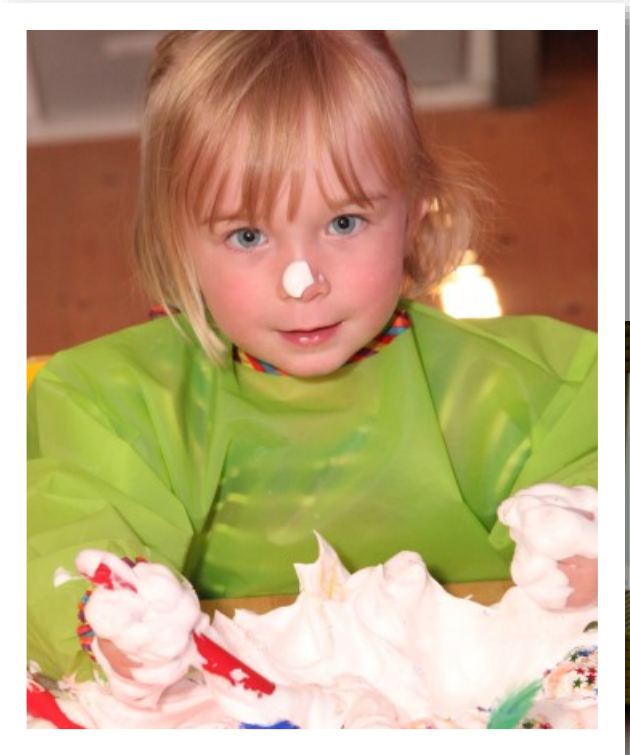


Red Room accommodates 16 children ranging in age from 18 to 30 months.

Red Room provides a fun and stimulating playing and learning environment which matches activities to age and ability and allows children to develop at their own pace, to investigate their interests and to play safely.

Children in Red Room follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. During their time in here we aim to put all the small steps in place to support children to become secure, happy, keen and confident learners. Our carefully designed programme of activities continues to be delivered for the most part through play.

# Growing Spaces Red Room



Blue Room accommodates 16 children aged from 2½ to 3½ years.

Children in Blue Room follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

During their time in Blue Room we aim to put all the small steps in place to support children to become secure, happy, keen and confident learners. Our carefully designed programme of activities continues to be delivered for the most part through play.



# Growing Spaces Blue Room



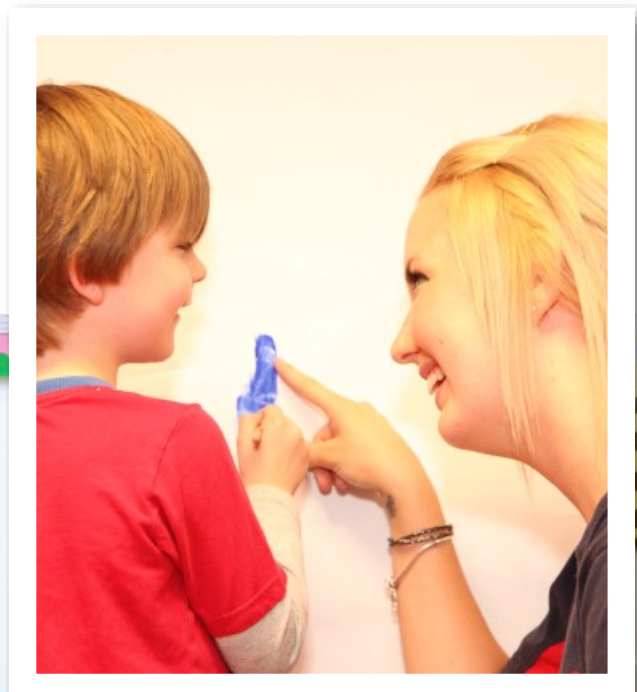
Pre-school accommodates 18 children aged 3 to 5 years, a majority of whom are completing their final year at Red Balloon prior to Reception year entrance at Big School.

In Pre-school your child will benefit from the support and guidance offered by our highly experienced Qualified Pre-school Teacher. Children continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum where activities are matched to the age and ability of each individual child.

In addition to introducing the children to a more structured approach to learning, it is during your child's Pre-school year that children are encouraged to adopt practices and behaviours which will equip them well in preparation for their transition to a school environment.



# Growing Spaces Pre-School





At Red Balloon we believe children flourish in fresh air so we endeavour to spend as much time as possible outside involving both structured activities and free play.

Our garden offers a host of toddler-friendly activities including sand and water play, climbing, bikes & trikes and a growing area for budding young gardeners.

All rooms enjoy direct access to sectioned outdoor areas enabling all children to have plenty of opportunity to expend some of their boundless energy.

# Growing Spaces Outdoor Play





# More Than Just A Nursery...

At Red Balloon we consider ourselves to be more than just a nursery. We welcome parental involvement at every turn and the whole host of events, extra-curricular activities, outings, visits and charity fundraisers which we are involved in throughout the course of the year, make Red Balloon a busy and vibrant community.

Each year we nominate a child-related charity. Throughout the year we organise a series of fundraising events and activities, all the proceeds of which are donated to our chosen charity

At Red Balloon we offer a diverse selection of extra-curricular activities ranging from Ballet to French, Footie to Drama.

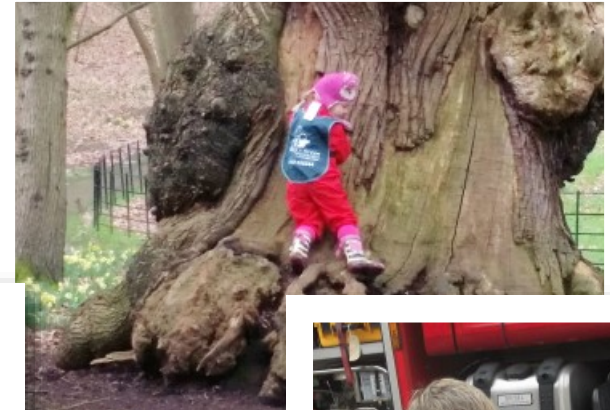




Cuddle-Me-Do

Ladyland Farm

Graduation Day



Forest School



Pumpkin Picking



Firemen Visit



Sports Day



Our Own Minibus



Christmas

More Than  
Just A Nursery...



# Our Awards

We were most recently inspected by Ofsted in May 2014 when we were delighted to retain our Outstanding rating. Highlights of our Ofsted report include:

- Leadership and management are exceptionally strong at this setting. Managers are highly reflective and evaluative in all areas. This leads to continual improvement for children and staff.
- The needs of the range of children are extremely well met. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, those learning English as an additional language make excellent progress.
- Staff practice consistently reflects the highest aspirations for children's safety, wellbeing and learning.
- The quality of teaching is consistently inspirational. Staff understand children's needs well and value their individuality.



## Investors In People

In March 2015 we were delighted to retain our Investors in People accreditation.

Investors in People is a management framework for high performance through people. This prestigious accreditation is widely recognised as a mark of excellence. At Red Balloon we seek to optimise performance by championing best practice in people management, we achieve our accreditation through a rigorous and objective assessment to determine performance.

**Said our Assessor:** Red Balloon is a positive, forward looking organisation which continually seeks feedback from both internal and external sources with the aim of continuous improvement.

The leadership team is dynamic and always seeking ways in which to improve the nursery both in terms of facilities and management and staff capabilities. People are proud to work for Red Balloon and appreciate all of the opportunities it offers; this is evidenced by length of service of staff and close relationships within the team.”

## NDNA eQuality Counts

In 2015 we were delighted to receive a Level 3 Quality Award, National Day Nurseries eQuality Counts, Exemplary Practice. This is an accolade enjoyed by only a handful of nurseries in the UK.

“Completing National Day Nurseries Association’s eQuality Counts is a fantastic achievement. This national accreditation demonstrates that the nursery is providing extremely high levels of care and education for children. Congratulations to everyone at Red Balloon.” Stella Ziolkowski, Director of Quality and Workforce Development.



In May 2016 we were extremely proud to receive our Outstanding Food Award from the Children's Food Trust which highlights our commitment to ensure that every child in our care enjoys a varied, balanced and nutritious diet and establishes healthy eating habits to take with them into their school years.





# Learning for Life

## The EYFS

**At Red Balloon we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS)**

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that we must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The EYFS specifies requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

The learning and development requirements cover the *seven areas of learning and development* which must shape activities and experiences (*educational programmes*) for children; each area of learning is underpinned by early learning goals, the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five and assessment arrangements are in place to measure progress.





The EYFS promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The EYFS specifies **seven areas of learning and development** which must shape activities and experiences for children:

**Communication and language**

development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

**Physical development**

involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of

physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

**Personal, social and emotional development**

involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

We also support children in four *specific* areas which are **Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world** and **Expressive arts and design**.

# Learning for Life

## The EYFS

**Four guiding principles shape our delivery of the EYFS:**

- Every child is a **unique child**
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**;
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**
- Children develop and learn in **different ways and at different rates**.

