

Daffodils Outdoor Nursery

Established 2016

Information



*"The best classroom
and the richest cupboard
is roofed only by the sky"
Margaret McMillan*

OFSTED REGISTRATION NUMBER: EY501649

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General Information

Daffodils Outdoor Nursery is open for 47.5 weeks of the year.

We are closed for bank holidays, approximately 2 weeks at Christmas, and 2 weeks during the Summer for ground maintenance. Please see our website or newsletter for current term dates. We also close for a further 3 days (usually one per term) for staff training, which is fundamental for us to deliver high quality childcare from highly trained staff. Families will be given advanced notice of any training days. Our usual opening hours are Monday Thursday 8am-5pm. We now offer a limited number of term time only places for children age 3+.

Our Ethos

Daffodils Outdoor Nursery is a unique childcare setting providing care for children age 0-5 years ran by highly qualified, experienced staff. Based in Arthingworth and surrounded by beautiful countryside, we offer an exciting opportunity for your children to experience freedom to play and learn in the outdoors. We promote the long-established philosophies of the Scandinavian Forest kindergartens where children explore, learn and develop their skills whatever the weather. Daffodils is committed to promoting a 'have a go' attitude, encouraging children to be resourceful, inventive and creative. We understand and value how competent pre-school children can be, and how well they respond to being trusted with responsibility, thus boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

Research shows that time spent outdoors can have huge benefits to a child's health, well-being and learning and development. As a setting, we fully support this and aim to spend the majority of our days playing and learning in our beautiful outdoor space. We also have an amazing indoor space, whether it be for cosy winter story times, breakfast around our big table, or simply to come in and get warm and dry after playing in the rain. During the Spring and Summer months you can expect your child to be outside from 8am-5pm!

Our days are filled with activities and play that is led by the children's innate curiosity. We follow an 'In the Moment Planning strategy' which allows us to follow the children's interests daily. Our outdoor approach to learning allows the children to manage their own risks and challenges, supported by professional early years practitioners who will enhance their learning opportunities. We provide a nurturing, holistic approach with bags of fun and creativity thrown in. You can be sure that your child will have a wonderful time at Daffodils.

Please note that we do not allow children to attend another Early Years Setting alongside Daffodils as past experience has shown that this can be difficult for some children. In much the same way that you wouldn't send a child to 2 different schools, we feel that one early years setting ensures that children can build strong relationships with the adults and children at Daffodils and thrive with their learning and development. We do allow children to have a childminder or nanny alongside attending Daffodils as this is more of a home from home environment that works well alongside a nursery setting.

What we get up to.....

Woodwork (with real tools!), risky play, messy play, Forest school sessions, art with nature, clay modelling, creative modelling, outdoor cooking, sand/water play, mud kitchen cooking! den building, bird watching, dancing, singing, music sessions, climbing, building, yoga and much more!



A Typical Day at Daffodils

March-October (Summer routine)

Always subject to change based on the children and their needs. Routine will vary slightly for different age groups



8am-Meet and greet!

Flexible drop off to our outdoor or indoor area for younger children between 8am-8:45am. Free play.

8-8:20am Warming breakfast

Snack breakfast served to give us energy for the morning session.

8:45-9am-Being together time

Welcome time led by a member of staff. We will say hello, sing our good morning song, share exciting stories and news from home, run through the health and safety rules for playing in the outdoors. Children will have the opportunity to share what they would like to do that day. Older children will sometimes head to our own private Woodland at this time.

9:15am-Wild and Free time!

Children have the opportunity to use natural resources, the environment, and their imagination to engage in free play. Highly qualified staff will be on call to enhance and develop the children's choice of learning opportunities. Free-flow snack station on offer.

12:15-1pm Food and rest

Hand-washing, followed by lunch and story time. Children have the opportunity to have a rest or a sleep if required in our sleep shed or cosy sleep room.

1-4pm Wild and free time!

More outdoor play in our Woodland and garden areas.

4-4:30pm Reflection and Rest

We like to end our sessions with time for the children to reflect on their day and share their experiences. A nutritious snack tea is provided.

4:30-5pm-Goodbye time

Time to say goodbye-probably a little muddier than when we arrived 😊😊

A Typical Day at Daffodils

November-February (Winter routine)

Always subject to change based on the children and their wants/needs and the age groups.

8am-Meet and greet!

Flexible drop off to our outdoor area or indoors for younger children available between 8am-8:45am. Free play.

8-8:30am Warming breakfast

Snack breakfast served, to give us energy for the morning session.

8:45-9am-Being together time

Welcome time led by a member of staff. We will say hello, sing our good morning song, share exciting stories and news from home, run through the health and safety rules for playing in the outdoors. Children will have the opportunity to share what they would like to do that day. Older children will sometimes head to our private woodland at this time.

9:15am-Wild and Free time!

Children have the opportunity to use natural resources, the environment, and their imagination to engage in free play. Highly qualified staff will be on call to enhance and develop the children's choice of learning opportunities. Free-flow snack station on offer.

12:15-1pm Food and rest

We head in to our cosy indoor space for hand washing, followed by lunch and story time. Children have the opportunity to have a rest or a sleep if required in our designated sleep area.

1-4pm Wild and free time!

Indoor play with access to our arts and crafts areas and baking activities. Small groups will also be able to access our outdoor areas for walks, woodwork and outdoor play.

4-4:30pm Reflection and Rest

We like to end our sessions with time for the children to reflect on their day and share their experiences. A nutritious snack tea is provided around indoor dining tables.

4:30-5pm-Goodbye time

Time to say goodbye-probably a little muddier than when we arrived
☺☺

Both routines are subject to change and will be dependant on the weather conditions and the needs of the children in attendance at that time. However, we do try to keep to these routines as best as we can for consistency for the children.

The Baby Room

Sunshines (0-approx 18mths/walking)
Clouds (approx. 18mths/walking-2 years)

If you are looking for a unique setting to take care of your baby, look no further.

Our Baby room is where the roots of innate curiosity and learning will form, making way for adventure when your little one moves up to our Raindrop room/garden! The Sunshine's and Clouds have their own secure garden to explore the outdoor environment whilst also having opportunities to visit the older children in other parts of the outdoor grounds.

We provide high quality, natural resources allowing children to explore using all of their senses. Our most important resource is our highly qualified and experienced staff who will be on hand to provide love and care for your child. Our emphasis is on providing a home from home, relaxed environment where we are able to support your child's unique development.

The Nursery

Raindrops (2-3years)
Rainbows (3+)

We have 2 large rooms and extensive outdoor areas for our Raindrops and Rainbows, including our own secure private Woodland.

At Daffodils we are strong advocates of deferring children's start date to school and children are able to remain in the Rainbow room until the term after their 5th birthday if we feel it is suitable for them. This will need to be discussed with the nursery manager before a place can be confirmed.

All our fees are fully inclusive of all nappies and wipes as well as breakfast and snacks (unless selecting funding option 4). Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities to provide a cooked lunch, so we ask that parents/carers provide this meal. We also ask that parents provide all formula milk and bottles. Staff will be happy to discuss all feeding arrangements and requirements with you on an individual basis to support your child's needs and routines.

Places are very limited in our Sunshine, Cloud and Raindrop age brackets so it is never too early to request to be put on our waiting list for future start dates.

Explorers Holiday Club

Holiday club sessions for primary school aged children. Please check our Facebook Page for sessions and dates on offer.

Snacks and meals

All staff who prepare snacks and drinks have sufficient food hygiene training.

We will start our day with a healthy breakfast snack around the table served at approximately 8:00am. Children **must arrive to their room/garden by 8:15am** if they wish to have some breakfast.

Children must bring their own packed lunch as we do not have facilities to provide cooked meals. We promote healthy eating at Daffodils and encourage you to provide healthy food in your child's packed lunch. **No fizzy drinks, sugary/processed foods, crisps, sweets and chocolate are allowed** and these items will be sent home.

All children must bring a **named drinks bottle** each day containing fresh water.

There will be occasions where we do outdoor cooking on the fire (hot dogs, pancakes and other yummy snacks!)

Please note: Healthy snacks and water are available throughout the day.

Once our mini allotment is up and running we hope to grow some of our own snacks.

Settling in sessions

Following your initial visit, we recommend 1-2 (dependent on age), settling in sessions where you accompany your child along to a short session (preferably on one of the days/times you have requested for your child to attend), to get to know the nursery environment, the other children, and the staff. This is particularly important for becoming familiar with our outdoor environment where your child will spend a lot of their time. This session (around 1-2 hours) will allow us to gather information from you about your child's likes/dislikes and any routines they may have.

There is no charge for this initial settling in session. If after this session you feel your child would benefit from another settling in session, please speak to a member of staff who will be able to arrange this for you. However, we do believe that prolonged settling in periods can make the transition harder for some children and there will be a charge for extra settling in sessions.

If during your child's settling in sessions we have any concerns about how they will manage the outdoor environment and safety routines and boundaries, this will be discussed with you and an appropriate plan will be put in place. This may involve shorter sessions to allow your child to get used to the new environment and routines. Safety is paramount and children will only be able attend sessions at Daffodils if our staffing ratios allow us to keep them and others safe. Our Inclusion Lead, will work closely with families to ensure we are doing everything we can to support children with their sessions, however sometimes we may need to make referrals for external support or apply for additional funding for staffing before children will be able to attend their sessions.

The EYFS

At Daffodils, we implement the statutory curriculum for children age 0-5 years. The Early Years Foundation Stage is based around four main themes:

1. A Unique Child-Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and Self--assured.
2. Positive Relationships-Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person
3. Enabling Environments-The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning
4. Learning and Development-Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected

There are 7 areas of learning and development.

3 Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional

Development Communication and Language

Physical Development

4 Specific Areas

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Your child's progress will be closely monitored, and a Learning Journey will be kept to document their time at Daffodils Outdoor Nursery.

Play turns out to be so stunningly essential to childhood, it's like love, sunshine, and broccoli all juiced together.

Lenore Skenazy

(Free-Range Kids: How to Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry))

Focus Weeks

We follow an 'In the Moment' planning strategy at Daffodils which means we do not forward plan for themes topics or activities. We follow your child's unique interests and ideas and this means that staff spend less time doing paperwork, and more time having quality interactions with your child, extending and enhancing their play and learning. Once a term, your child will have a focus week where their 'learning journey' for the week is recorded. We will also record any 'wow' moments your child has and keep some of their special artwork for their learning journey book.

The purpose of the Learning Journey

- To celebrate your child's achievements
- To be a wonderful keepsake of your child's experiences
- To monitor the skills your child is developing
- To show your child's progression
- To record your child's opinions and thoughts
- To support staff in effectively engaging your child at nursery
- To support children when they are challenged
- To record and highlight the discoveries that your child makes

Your child's learning journey is unique and special to them.

Our learning journeys may differ slightly to some you may have seen in other settings. This is because we think it is more important that staff spend time with your children and less time cutting and sticking photographs and observations. The bulk of your child's learning journey will be made up of their focus week sheets with a few other observations and artwork in between. With staff spending less time doing paperwork, they have more time to get to know your child and support their learning and development as best they can.

Parental involvement in your child's learning journey is vital: you know your child best. You can contribute to your child's learning journey at any time, this contribution helps to build a better picture of your child's capabilities, their achievements and further needs. Feel free to provide photos, observations, 'wow' moments and artwork from home to add to your child's learning journey.

The week before your child's focus week, you will receive a parent sheet to complete and return to us to share information from home.

During the academic year in which your child is 4, some materials from your child's learning journey may be used to support assessment which is passed on to your child's school, this enables the next teacher to plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will continue to meet all children's needs after they leave nursery.

Working with you

We strongly believe that developing excellent working relationships with the families of the children we care for is of utmost importance to ensure their well-being and progress. We closely monitor your child's progress throughout their time with us, and we want to share as much information with you as possible. We will keep a record of your child's developments and learning experiences through their very special and unique 'Learning Journey'. You are free to add to this learning journey and we welcome any information you can give us. This might be you sharing a 'wow' moment from home, a piece of artwork your child has created away from nursery, or photographs of their experiences. We encourage the children to take pride and ownership of their special record which they can access to look through if they wish.

We ensure all of our staff are friendly and approachable, and if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to discuss them with a member of the team or the manager if you so wish. Your child will be allocated a key person who we hope you and your child will be able to build a strong relationship with. We also hold 3 parents evenings a year which is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress. We look forward to working with you 😊

Dropping off/collecting children

We are very lucky in that we have our own car park for use by both staff and families. However, it is likely that this car park may get busy during drop off/collection times. The car park does not have marked out bays, so please take care when parking during these times ensuring you make the best use of the spaces available allowing as many families as possible to drop off and collect with ease. Please avoid obstructing other vehicles whenever possible, however, please trust that if anyone does block you in, they are likely to only be a few minutes. We thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Important notice: Please do not park past the front garden flower bed or in the top car park as these areas are reserved for staff parking and disabled access only.

Please note: you are fully responsible for your child/ren until you have left them in our care. Please take care in the car park area and **beware of the pond** located to the side of it. The pond is not fenced off and we encourage you to stay away from that area. When in our care, there will be no access to the pond without very close supervision. **It is your responsibility to make sure anyone dropping off/collecting your child is made aware of the pond.**

Children will only be allowed to leave with an authorised named person. Children will not be allowed to leave with anyone who is or appears to be under the age of 18. In emergency situations, we will allow another person to collect your child with verbal permission from yourself, as long as they have photographic identification on them and they have a 'password' given by you.

Under no circumstances should any adult try to enter the nursery premises. Please wait for a member of staff to let you in and out. **Please also do not let other parents/carers in and out.**

Collection time- At least one member of staff will be available at collection time and will be in charge of 'hand overs'. Please do not leave the nursery until you have spoken to this member of staff to ensure that any important messages can be passed on to you. Most information will be sent to you via our 'Family' app before you collect and you are responsible for checking this regularly. Collection times can get quite busy with lots of parents/carers arriving at once, so we thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. We will always endeavour to not keep you waiting too long. For more detailed information you will need to call the nursery landline to discuss any queries regarding your child's time at nursery.

Illness

Children suffering from any infectious disease must be kept at home. Please call the nursery land line number to report your child's absence (01858 525777), emails, texts and Facebook messages are not always accessible. **If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, you must keep them off from nursery for at least 48 hours since the last bout and when all symptoms have completely cleared.** We have a detailed list of common infectious diseases and incubation periods available to view at the nursery. We may request confirmation from a doctor that your child does not have a contagious disease or infection. Children who have had vaccinations will have to remain home from nursery for 24 hours. Children who are taking antibiotics will need to stay home for at least 48 hours.

If your child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, we will contact you and ask you to arrange collection as soon as possible.

The majority of staff are first aid trained and we will be able to take care of your child until you arrive. In an emergency, the nursery manager or designated person in charge reserves the right to arrange for your child to be taken to hospital immediately if this is deemed necessary.

Policies and Procedures

As an Ofsted registered nursery, we have a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to ensure your child's safety and well-being at all times. The policies describe our philosophy and the work we do at Daffodils. Our policies are under constant review so that we can continue to strive to provide the best possible care for your child/ren and that we meet the needs of the families we work with. We welcome your interest in and comments about these policies so please feel free to pass them to a member of staff, or contact the office. Full details of policies and procedures are on our website and a password will be provided to you to access these upon registration.

FAQ'S

What do you do if it rains?

Play!! Remaining warm and dry is the most important element to create happiness and creative play in all weathers. Whilst the trees themselves do offer some shelter, we also have a large dome structure with a big sliding door, which provides us with shelter from the wind and rain when needed whilst still allowing us to make the most of the fresh air. We are very fortunate in that we also have a cosy indoor space on site, so in extreme weather conditions we always have a place to go to get warm and dry. Our indoor space will also be used for other social times such as when we meet and greet children in the morning.

Do you go out in all weathers?

Well most. It's only high winds that will stop us going out into our garden area because of the danger of falling branches, or in torrential rain if the children have already exhausted their change of clothes. In very cold weather the children will be dressed up warmly and remain active. We do have the option of going indoors, with plenty of space to play and learn, and we will make the most of this cosy, warm space. But yes, mostly we will be outdoors. The routines are slightly different in the Sunshine and Cloud groups where children spend less time outdoors. Staff will work around the children's routines however we still spend as much time outdoors as possible.

What if my child needs a rest?

We know that it is important for the children to have periods of proper rest during the day. There are natural breaks in the day when the children sit and talk or just relax. In warmer weather children sleep beneath the trees in hammocks and on cosy sleep mats. We also have our amazing indoor space which we can use for rest and relax time, especially in very wet or cold weather.

What is the adult: child ratio?

We always follow the legal requirements for the ratio of adults to children. This is 1:3 for under 2's, 1:5 for 2-3's, and 1:8 for 3-5's. However, we feel that to provide the best quality childcare, adult to child ratios will be higher than the government recommendations, especially during outdoor play opportunities where we allow children to take part in risky,

challenging play and learning. We usually work on a 1:6 ratio for 3-5's and 1:4 for 2-3's whenever possible. There may be periods of times where our desired ratio falls slightly, such as during staff breaks or the period between new children starting and recruiting new staff but will never fall below legal requirements.

Are the children provided with lunch/snacks?

We do not have facilities to provide children with lunch, therefore you will be required to provide a packed lunch for your child in an insulated lunch box with an ice pack to keep contents fresh. We do provide a breakfast snack before we begin our day, served between 8-8:15am. We also provide a healthy nutritious snack tea at around 4pm for children attending an afternoon session. Fresh fruit and healthy snacks are available to the children during our morning and afternoon sessions from our self service snack station.

Do the children need to be toilet trained?

No. We will work with your child and you at whatever stage you are at with regards to toilet training. We have toilet and changing facilities on site in our indoor space. We recommend that you pack lots of spare clothes if your child is currently in the process of toilet training. We also find that trouser and jacket waterproof sets are much easier than all in one suits if your child is toilet training as they can be more independent with dressing/undressing quickly and are less likely to have accidents. If your child is not yet showing signs of being ready to toilet train, please ensure they are wearing nappies rather than pull ups to make the changing process quicker, especially during winter months when many layers can take a long time! We kindly ask that you communicate with us about plans to toilet train beforehand so that we can ensure we have staff on hand to support your child with any accidents. We have a short form for you to complete before deciding together if it is the right time to support your child with toilet training.

Can my child attend part time?

Of course. We require a minimum of 2 full days per week to secure a place at Daffodils. We believe that full day sessions allow your child to make the most of the unique learning opportunities we provide. We do have a limited number of places for term time only or afternoon only sessions. Please see our Session and Fees sheet for more information.

Can my child attend another early years setting alongside Daffodils?

We do not allow children to attend Daffodils if they are attending another nursery or pre-school. We do allow children to attend a childminder or have a nanny alongside Daffodils.

Can you offer government funded sessions for 2, 3 and 4 year olds?

Yes. We offer a 'stretched' offer of funding spread across 48 weeks of the year. Please see our section on funded sessions for more information.

Can you offer the 30 hour government funded sessions 3 and 4 year olds?

Yes. Please see our funding options or speak to a member of staff.

Do I need to buy specific clothing/footwear?

Yes. Because of the amount of time we aim to spend in the outdoor environment, it is extremely important that your child is kitted out daily with the recommended clothing and footwear. Please see the kit list in our information booklet for more information. This is in the best interest of the children to keep them comfortable throughout the day. Children who

are not provided with appropriate clothing will be unable to attend. Our registration fee now includes a set of fully waterproof trousers and jacket for each child which is yours to keep. Once your child grows out of this set, you will need to order the next size up from us and the cost will be added to your next invoice.

How will you support my child to settle in?

We appreciate what a huge step it is for both the child and parent/carer to step in to nursery life. Our aim is to support your child as best we can as they enter this new chapter.

After your initial visit to meet staff, ask questions and explore the outdoor environment with your child, we will then invite you back a week prior to your child's first day for some settling in sessions (please see Settling In for more information)

