

Little Seeds Woodland Nursery

Parents/Carers Handbook



Linwood Community Development Trust

Unit 19, Mossedge Industrial Unit

Moss Road

Linwood

PA3 3HR

Nursery based in Linwood Community Woodland, Moss Road.

Care Inspectorate Registration No:CS2018365594

October 2018



Little Seeds Woodland Nursery Linwood Community Development Trust



Content

1. Introduction
2. About Little Seeds and Linwood Community Development Trust
3. Staff Details
4. About the Nursery Class
5. Session Times
6. Lunch and Snacks
7. Daily Routine
8. Your child's safety
9. Enrolment
10. Developing our Curriculum
11. Reporting Your Child's Progress
12. Registration Fee and Donations
13. Toilet training



1. Introduction

Hello,

I am Jeannette Anderson, Chair of the Linwood Community Development Trust (LCDT) and I extend a very warm welcome to you and your child. We are so proud that you have entrusted your child to our care and our staff will make sure your child has the quality experience with plenty of fun. LCDT owns and manages the Little Seeds Nursery and we are extremely proud and delighted to offer Renfrewshire's first fully outdoor nursery. We will support your child and our young citizens to thrive in a wonderful setting.

LCDT was formed by a group of tenacious women who decided that they were not going to allow their town to go into decline, the group quickly developed into the Linwood Community Trust. Over the last six years we have helped Linwood Bloom by the flowers we have planted and the enterprises we have started. Our Grocers, Roots of Linwood, supplies good quality fruit and veg to local residents in the Renfrewshire area and commercial orders to Restaurants, bars and Cafe in Renfrewshire and further afield. The football teams of Linwood, Houston and across Renfrewshire use our Kit wash on a regular basis. We support our choir to raise their voices each week and we are delighted with our involvement in the many activities in Linwood. Our ambitious project in Mossedge Linwood will deliver an all-weather football pitch and meeting centre with opportunities for learning, training and leisure. The Mossedge village will be open in March 2019.

Our staff are here to ensure your child has the best experience, please do not hesitate to ask our staff if you require any information.

This booklet has been put together to help explain what happens at our nursery. We hope you find it helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any concerns or suggestions to help us improve our practice.

Kind Regards

Jeanette

2. About Little Seeds and Linwood Community Development Trust

Little Seeds Woodland Nursery is the first fully outdoor nursery in Renfrewshire AND is also community owned.

Little Seeds Woodland Nursery is very proud to be part of Linwood Community Development Trust. Over 10 years ago Linwood Community Development Trust (LCDT) was formed by a group of volunteers from the local community, who want to improve health and wellbeing, reduce social inequalities and build social capital within Linwood. The Trust is set up 'for the community, by the community'.

There are a number of projects that the Trust run: -

- **Roots of Linwood** - High quality, low cost, fresh fruit and vegetables in the local community.
- **Linwood in Bloom**- has made a huge difference to making Linwood a more attractive place to live by developing community flowerbeds and providing troughs/planters.
- **Kit and Kaboodle** – offering a laundry service for all local football teams.

As well as these projects LCDT is due to start a massive build for the community – a 3G Football pitch and a community owned centre in Mossedge (where the old Clippens School used to be).

Little Seeds is another one of the Trust's projects and has been in development over the last 2 years. It started as an idea between staff and some volunteers. The Trust secured funding from the Scottish Government to set up the Nursery and this has enabled us to offer a free service for the 11 months of delivery. This is because the Scottish Government sees the value of Outdoor Education with children and how much it enriches the child's learning experience.

We are very excited about the possibilities for ourselves and the children and all the wonderful learning experiences ahead.

3. Staff Details

Head of Education – Claire McWilliams

Curriculum and Delivery Manager – Alan Cunningham

Team Leader – David Donnelly

Team Leader – Clara Galbraith

Nursery Assistant – Chloe Mooney

Nursery Assistant – Annette Campbell

4. About the Nursery Class

There are so many things to do outside. All of our learning will be play based and child led. We will build on what the children enjoy and record this, linking all play with the Curriculum for Excellence. We have a computer system that enables us to upload the children’s learning immediately providing instant records of what they are doing and how it is contributing to their overall development. This provides an invaluable learning experience for your child enabling them to :

- Build confidence and self-belief
- Building resilience
- Explore their environment, developing essential problem solving and decision-making skills
- Develop physical abilities and help children to stay active and healthy.
- Heighten self-awareness and improve emotional and social skills.
- Promote co-operative and group working.
- Encourage children to take care of themselves and others.
- Foster care, appreciation and respect for wildlife and wild places.
- Broaden knowledge and understanding of the natural world.

We do this by some of the activities below: -

Shelter building	Fire lighting	Yoga
Exploring the forest	Climbing Trees	Mud Kitchen
Bug Hotels.	Growing vegetables	Tool use
Den building	Studying wildlife	Sensory activities
Playing team and group games	Tracking games	Cooking on an open fire
Using a Kelly Kettle	Rope and string work	Outdoor Art and sculpture work
Woodland and traditional craft		
Developing stories and drama, and meeting imaginary characters		
Physical movement activities		

The list is endless, and we also recognise and are excited by the fact that the children will develop new and wonderful activities that we haven’t even thought of yet.

5. Session Times

Drop Offs and Pick Ups and Meeting Place

We will all meet at the Janitor's House Gazebo between 8.15 -8.30am

We will then all walk up along Brediland Road, Speirs Place and then onto the field and into the woods. The walk will take about 20 mins.

We are based in Linwood Community Woodland. During the week we will explore more of the woods and all it has to offer.

If your child is coming for the morning session

- Drop off : Gazebo at Janitor's House at 8.30am
- Pick Up : Nursery in the woods at 12 noon

If your child is coming for the afternoon session:-

- Drop off : Nursery in the woods at 1.00pm
- Pick Up : Gazebo at Janitor's House at 4.30pm

If your child is coming for the full day

- Drop off : Gazebo at Janitor's House at 8.30am
- Pick Up : Gazebo at Janitor's House at 4.30pm

6. Lunch and Snacks

At the moment Little Seeds Nursery does not provide food or snacks – however this will change in the future. We are a health promoting nursery, so we would encourage parents/carers to provide a healthy snack and lunch for your child. We have lots of ideas on what you could buy or prepare, please get in touch if you would want some ideas.

7. Daily Routine

Meeting Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at designated point. • Toilet & dress children. • Traveling risk assessment. • Walking bus (Songs/rhymes etc.)
Welcome Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Song. • Weather Song. • Risky Business (Risk Assessing, Stranger Danger, Dogs, No Picks No Licks). • Plan learning. • Self-Registration.
Explore & Roar Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free play time for children to explore and discover the environment. • Staff will facilitate learning by being responsive to children's wants and needs, considering their learning and development. • Staff may provide additional resources to support specific learning outcomes. • Children will decide themselves a suitable time to have a mid-morning snack following correct procedures, (free-flow snack).
Reflection Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children gather around to discuss and evaluate their learning that morning. (Staff use this information to plan for the following day/rest of the week etc.) • Yoga/Relaxation Time. • Goodbye Song.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children gather to have their lunch in a suitable area following correct procedures.
Welcome Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Song. • Weather Song. • Risky Business (Risk Assessing, Stranger Danger, Dogs, No Picks No Licks). • Plan learning. • Self-Registration.
Explore & Roar Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free play time for children to explore and discover the environment. • Staff will facilitate learning by being responsive to children's wants and needs, considering their learning and development. • Staff may provide additional resources to support specific learning outcomes. • Children will decide themselves a suitable time to have a mid-morning snack following correct procedures, (free-flow snack).
Reflection Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children gather around to discuss and evaluate their learning that morning. (Staff use this information to plan for the following day/rest of the week etc.) • Yoga/Relaxation Time. • Goodbye Song.
Home Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveling risk assessment. • Walking bus (Songs/rhymes etc.) • Meet at designated point.

8. Your Child's Safety

Here at Little Seeds we take your child's safety very seriously. We want you to be able to trust us that we will keep your child safe and happy. In the woodland setting there are certain risks that occur that wouldn't happen indoors - we are different from other indoor nurseries and embrace that difference. We are very aware of these risks and take time to ensure we manage them properly. All staff are regularly briefed on all the risk assessments to ensure they know how to minimise them. As well as this, we fully involve the children in the risk assessments, and have that at the heart of the curriculum. Our daily "Risky Business" fully involves the children in risk assessment and they tell us what is safe and what is not safe.

We see managing risks as real learning opportunities to teach the children how to make good choices and develop their decision-making skills. We encourage them to explore safely, to get involved in activities that are traditionally seen as 'dangerous' e.g. using tools, climbing trees or lighting fires with adult supervision. This not only promotes learning and problem solving but also confidence and self-belief. They realise what they can and cannot do and allows them to continue to lead their own learning.

9. Enrolment

You are welcome to visit the nursery class at any time, just get in touch and we will get you booked in. Once your child has reached 2 years of age you can put your child's name on our waiting list. You will be contacted when a place becomes available soon after your child turns three years of age.

10. Developing our Curriculum

Learning through play is the heart of what we do.

Children have boundless energy and enthusiasm, their capacity to learn is limitless. Therefore, we realise that they will teach us what is important in their play. Our staff are all fully prepared to take time to understand what inspires and stimulates the children. They are tasked to ensure that they recognise what the children enjoy doing and how they can help them 'dig deep' into their learning. The team meet every week to review the learning activities, highlighting what is working really well and how we can help to facilitate the children to learn and explore more.

Our curriculum will change and evolve with the children. We recognise that each child is unique and will learn in different ways and it is our job to make sure that we can help them to fully reach their potential. This requires responsive education, following the lead of the children and then recording this as they move forward.

11. Reporting Your Child's Progress – I Connect System

To record all your child's learning we use a highly innovative and state of the art computer system.

"I Connect is the award-winning online learning journal software for practitioners. It enables staff to save hours each week and reduces the need to spend time away from their key children. I Connect is used by thousands of nurseries across the UK and there are over 700,000 observations logged each month."

Click [here](#) to find out more. This system allows our nursery staff to record as we go, linking the learning with Curriculum for Excellence with a click of a button.

Parent Zone

Not only that we also offer Parent Zone – an app that allows you to access your child’s development anytime, anywhere and facilitates communication between the nursery and yourselves.

“ParentZone is an award-winning smartphone app for parents. Parents can access information about their child’s day at a time that suits them best. Parent Zone increases partnership with parents by allowing two-way communication between parents and your nursery.”

Click [here](#) to find out more.

12. Registration Fee and Donations

Registration Fee

There is a £100 FEE to join the nursery. This is to buy your Woodland Outdoor pack

This will include :-

- Waterproof Outdoor Jacket
- Deidrickson waterproof dungarees
- Hat
- Gloves
- Wellingtons
- Socks
- Head Torch Light
- Rucksack

We ask for this because we buy specific clothes and equipment that have demonstrated that they will keep your child dry, warm and safe.

Donations

For the next 11 months the nursery is completely free. The funding we have received is only for staffing costs. Therefore, we are always looking for donations for resources for the nursery. If you would be able to give donations to the nursery, that would be really helpful. It is purely voluntary but if you could like to offer a regular contribution then you can do this through a standing order or donation through the shop.

13. Toilet Training

Due to the nursery being outside it would be very difficult for us to change nappies. Therefore, we would ask that your child is toilet trained before he/she starts with us. If they are not quite ready, then we would work with you to help move the situation forward.