



*A professional day nursery where happy, settled children flourish in a caring environment.*

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## The KTB Kids Promise

KTB Kids is business venture developed from a passion to provide exceptional standards of nursery care. The nursery is designed to meet the needs of all children, with the standards of facilities, resources and nursery practitioners meeting only the highest standards.

### **Our promise to you is that KTB Kids:**

- Will not compromise on quality of its delivery of service.
- Is designed to meet the needs of all children.
- Offer the highest standards of facilities, resources & nursery educators.
- Have children in the nursery that are happy, settled and well-occupied.
- Provide a safe, clean, friendly and caring environment
- Develop close relationships between young children and their key educator.

## Team Updates

We are lucky at KTB Kids to have a core team of strong, dedicated and loyal educators working with the children on a daily basis. In any nursery stability of the team is really important, in order to provide reassurance and consistency for the children and parents. As a management team we have a robust recruitment process and we work hard to retain staff, ensuring that we put employee welfare on a high priority in our business planning. 50% of our team have been in the nursery from our first year of opening 4 years ago but it is a factor of the industry that some staff will move on, and in our case this is typically for family commitments or to pursue an alternative career, our team very rarely to move to a new nursery. We are also a growing nursery, and this in itself will mean that whilst we head towards capacity more educators will join our team, so you will see some new faces in the setting. We now have 14 full time educators in our team, and this term alone we have welcomed 4 new staff members Ellie, Kylie, Ellie-Mai and Shannon. The profiles for all our teams are on our notice board by reception, and can also be found on our website. We are also delighted to say that we will be welcoming back Hannah from her maternity leave in August 2018. Hannah will return to work with the 2 and 3 year olds in the development zone. This means that for the moment we are currently fully staffed. A luxury in this industry!

## Celebrating Occasions at KTB Kids

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As you are aware, central to our ethos here at KTB Kids is the focus on child centred activity and in the moment planning. We see great results with our children as a result to adopting these principles and engagement is high as experiences are so varied. We believe that adult-led activities should remain playful and that too much tightly directed activity can deprive children of the opportunity to engage actively with learning. We want to ensure that with every engagement children's abilities are being stretched enough to provide them with a challenge, in order to increase their learning potential.

This ethos affects how as a setting we approach special days, for example mother's day, Easter or other festivals. We feel strongly that children need to be given lots of space to express their own thoughts and diverse situations. Through process-oriented projects and varied focussed activities we support children to explore the topics around special days in an age appropriate way. Whilst this may mean that one child chooses to create a beautiful masterpiece from paint or sticking to take home for Mother's Day, another may choose to sing you a song, and another may more simply enjoy talking about their family or home celebrations with an educator or friend. Our children will not bring home standardised craft, as these are far too often created by an adult rather than the child and they have no individual expression. When children are old enough to really grasp the meaning of these special days, so at school, they will have lots of opportunities to create personalised craft to take home to present to you, and we hope you agree that these will hold much more value.

The text 'Mother's DAY' is written in a vibrant red color. 'Mother's' is in a large, flowing, cursive script, while 'DAY' is in a smaller, bold, uppercase sans-serif font. A horizontal brushstroke underline is positioned beneath the 'Mother's' text, extending slightly past the end of the word.

## Educators achieving level III NVQ qualification

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We would like to say congratulations to both Mel and Louise who have completed their level III NVQ qualification this term. Mel has received her certificate but we are waiting for Louise's to come through, Paige will be completed next term. Ellie-Mai and Shannon will be starting their level III course next month and Marilyn is due to complete her qualification early 2019. At KTB Kids we invest a lot of time into supporting our training educators, and we always aim to keep these educators long term beyond the completion of their qualification. This means that for the industry we are lucky to have a high proportion of qualified staff looking after the children.

## Transitions to preschool – and an invite to our preschool parent workshop

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Children that have turned 3 before September 2018 will soon be moving up within our nursery into our KTB Kids preschool programme. The programme is designed to cover a year of education, with the goal to make sure that they are ready for school with a good breadth of knowledge across the early year's foundation curriculum. Children on the preschool program will still be able to access and enjoy the resources in the development zone, however the nursery classroom will be fully utilised to create a peaceful yet resourceful learning environment that continues to embrace our ethos yet enables our children to be challenged even further through new inventive and creative learning opportunities. The inclusion of weekly projects, scientific experiments, team games and challenges, children's yoga and more use of drama including puppet theatre work are examples of what to expect. Access to these exciting activities help us to ensure that our eldest children become as confident, sociable and independent as possible.

Our transitions into preschool will be taking place over the summer, so these children will be moving to a new key educator in the next 2 months as follows: Mel's children will go to Louise, Hayley's children will go to Kylie and Emma's children will go to Paige. We are inviting all parents of the children who will be in our 2018-2019 preschool programme to a special parent's workshop on this topic on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 19:30.

Our 60 minute informative session aims to achieve the following:

- Deepen your understanding of what schools really want reception children to be able to do when they start in September.
- Understand more about how our settings ethos influences how your child learns in their final year in our nursery.
- Become more knowledgeable about how our pathway to school readiness ensures that your child is accessing and gaining knowledge from a broad and varied curriculum maximising their learning potential.
- Gain confidence in how you can support your child at home to ensure that they are ready for beginning their reception year in 2019.



## Increasing Specialism within our nursery

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In our nursery emotional literacy forms a core element of our training and support for educators. This is because many children need support in managing their own and recognising other people's feelings. Effective emotional literacy sits closely alongside positive behaviour and helps children to fulfil their potential.

We are really excited to announce that our early year's manager Hayley, who is a highly skilled and knowledgeable educator, will be embarking upon a 6 month play therapy course this year. Play-therapy is a psychotherapeutic approach that can be used to teach children to express themselves in healthy ways, become respectful and empathetic, and discover new and positive ways to solve problems.

The in depth knowledge and up to date theory and practice that Hayley will gain from this course will be invaluable to us as a setting, and her new knowledge will be disseminated throughout the team. In particular this will benefit and support children who are experiencing change in their life, including trauma, or those children with special educational needs or English as an additional language.

## New: KTB Kids Movimento Room

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This term has seen some big changes to the layout of the nursery, our new cloakroom and larger more open plan classroom have been a massive success, not only have our trips become so much easier to organise, we have also seen our children's independence and confidence develop even more over the past few months.

An area that parents don't get to see as often is our new **Movimento room**. This is a 50% soft floor matted area with soft play resources, a small trampoline, balls and balance beams. The other 50% is for large scale construction with our hollow blocks, wheels and tyres. The idea for this space is that it can be flexible, not only for physical play and our nursery yoga; it can also be used if our educators feel that the children would benefit from time away from the main nursery or to be in smaller groups.

This room is in no way to replace our outside adventures, but just gives the children further opportunity for safe and directed active play inside.

**If you would like to view this space then please do just ask on collection or drop off and we can show you around and explain this area works in practice.**

## Are you entitled to funding for childcare hours?

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At KTB Kids funded sessions are offered as part of the free for two or free early years education for 3–4 year olds. 15 hours of funded childcare is delivered at KTB Kids as 5 hour blocks and 30 hours of funded childcare is delivered as 6 hour blocks. The 5 hour blocks are between 08:00- 13:00 or 13:30–18:30. The 6 hour blocks are between 07:00–13:00 or 13:00–19:00. Please note that no more than 10 hours per day of funding can be claimed from the local authority.

Funded spaces are only allocated if the nursery has availability. Funding is only for 38 weeks of the year which is in term time only. Parents or guardians may self -fund sessions to 'top up' the funding if they would like the child to attend longer days, sessions beyond the 15 hours, or to attend during school holidays. The calendar of term dates runs as the Kent school calendar.

**In Kent, children become eligible to claim their free early education from:**

**A child born between:**

1 April - 31 August (inclusive) The start of term 1 following their third birthday (after summer holidays) until statutory school age.

1 September - 31 December (inclusive) The start of term 3 following their third birthday (after Christmas/New Year holiday) until statutory school age.

1 January - 31 March (inclusive) The start of term 5 following their third birthday (after April holiday) until statutory school age.

The government childcare choices website explains a little bit more about accessing the funded hours so take a look here to see if and what you may be entitled to. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> Please note that funded places are limited in our setting so please do let us know if you would like to claim your funding with us. These spaces are always offered to our existing parents before they are offered to new children. Please note that for your child to continue accessing the nursery throughout the whole year that we are open there will be a holiday top up for the 12 weeks throughout the year that the government does not fund. For the 15 hours this will be £92.70 per month and for the 30 hours this will be £154.50 per month.

Childcare  
**Choices**

## Enhancing our daily outdoor adventures

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum places strong emphasis on the importance and value of daily outdoor experiences for children's learning and development. Our ethos at KTB Kids reflects this and our children have frequent and regular opportunities to explore and learn in the outdoor environment. The daily trips in our setting are seen as more than just an outing, they can give children fantastically rich, first-hand experiences, experiences that the children can then use back in our nursery as the 'stuff' that stimulates their play, their drawing, building and painting.

Not having our own dedicated outdoor space, our children are used to travelling into the local community and they really enjoy their daily outside adventures. As you are aware we have recently been working on extending this further, and we are delighted to now be introducing a wider breadth of field trips for the children, incorporating public transport, longer trips with picnics – although children will be given a hot meal at tea time on these days, and some really exciting local exploration. These trips will be driven by our 'in the moment' planning, including the children in discussions, and taking into consideration nursery topics and children's interests. We would like to thank our parents for taking the time through our new registration forms to give consent for their children to partake in these extended outings without notice which makes this flexibility possible. We take our responsibilities to risk assess and safeguard the children very seriously by a way of local knowledge, dynamic risk assessments and stringent procedures while out and about and every trip we do is always individually planned and fully risk assessed reflecting the current situation on each unique day. We look forward to sharing information on any extended trips that your children have enjoyed upon collection and we will share observations made on trips through the learning book. We thought we would share with you a few facts on why we believe that trips are even more beneficial than having a great garden:

- Outings can help the children feel more rooted in their local community and make connections with the outside world
- Outings can provide rich learning opportunities, including hands-on and interactive experiences, building on what the children are learning in the nursery (before, during and after the trip)
- Outings can stimulate curiosity and inspire new interests
- Outings can foster children's social skills and self-confidence
- Outings can help promote healthy living by encouraging walking and dressing appropriately to enjoy all weathers
- Outings help children to understand and respect nature
- Outings help children to learn road safety first hand.



## Nursery Availability

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Over the past 4 years we have slowly increased the number of children in our nursery, and this has been almost entirely through word of mouth recommendation. For this September our preschool programme is now full, with the exception of a few sessions on a Friday. We do have one new child joining us but otherwise we are full because of all of our existing children who are moving up which is great. We have only 3 to 4 spaces per day available for children born between September 2015 and August 2017, this is factoring in the children who will be transitioning over the next year from baby room. We anticipate that these spaces will fill quickly, and the priority is to children attending more sessions in line with our policy. In baby room we currently have 7 spaces available for babies born after September 2017.

## KTB Kids Summer Picnic 2018

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We would like to welcome all parents to our annual summer picnic which will be held in Dartford park on **Wednesday 4th July at 10:45.**



At 11:00 we will be joined by our friend and musician Paul from Jolly dinosaurs who will play some popular children's songs on his guitar, as part of a fun and interactive one-hour music session in the outdoors. The children will then enjoy a picnic lunch together with their friends. This special event is a great opportunity to meet with other parents and see your children engaging with our educators and their peers in a relaxed environment. We hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend, what is always a relaxed and fun morning. If you could please let us know if you, and / or another family member will be attending that would help us to make the necessary plans for the morning. If this is not your child's regular day, then of course you are still more than welcome to attend, we obviously just need your children to be accompanied and to be under your care throughout the session, although we will provide their lunch. We will confirm exactly where in the park we will be meeting on Tuesday 3rd, when we have an idea on weather.

## Goodbye and good luck to our preschool children and their families

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Nine of our children will be leaving us this summer to join their new schools. Some of these children have been with us since they were in baby room, and they will all of course be missed by our entire team. That said, we are confident that each child will thrive in their new environments, and like many of our previous leavers, we know that many will pop back in regularly to say hello.

A heartfelt goodbye and our very best wishes to the families of all our preschool children from all of us at KTB Kids. We wish you all every happiness for your futures, and ask please do stay in touch ☺

### Lost clothes?

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We seem to have accumulated rather a lot of lost clothes in the nursery, and we are unable to keep indefinitely. Could we therefore please kindly ask parents on collection to take a quick look in our buggy storage room to see if anything belongs to your child so that it can be taken home.

Just a polite reminder, when clothes are labelled it makes it far easier for us to be able for us to ensure that children's personal property is returned to their individual peg.

### Get well soon Mrs Murphy

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On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June Mrs Murphy underwent an emergency eye operation and although she is doing well she will be away from the nursery for a further week. Please be assured that in her absence all elements of our Food for Life ethos will continue to be complied with and your children will be served fresh, healthy and scrumptious food as they always have been. Get well soon Mrs Murphy from everyone 😊

### Katie summer leave

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Please be aware that throughout the summer holidays this year, whilst her boys are off school, Katie will be working remotely away from the nursery. Whilst she will be available by email, day to day queries and problems wherever possible should please in the first instance be directed to our capable managers Hayley or Naomi. Thank you.

From all of us at KTB Kids, we wish all our parents a wonderful summer and we thank you for your ongoing support and positivity for our nursery.

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