



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 educators 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 workers.

Welcome to the world Beatrix 🍀



We are absolutely delighted to be able to share the wonderful news that on 9th April 2019 at 13:30 beautiful baby Beatrix joined the world. After an emergency caesarean Naomi and baby are both doing well. To big sister Daisy, to Sean and of course Naomi we send our very best wishes and love on behalf of all the staff and families at KTB Kids.

Team updates

This term we have welcomed three new members to our team Charlotte, Rachael and Semah. We do currently have availability within the team for a new member for both upper and lower nursery, in order to be able to take more children. Sadly, Charlotte has been signed off work for 6 weeks but we hope to welcome her back in early May. Whilst Naomi is on maternity leave rather than appointing one dedicated deputy, after liaison with the team we have produced an 'educator in charge' system. Within the team we have senior educators and Hayley and I will allocate responsibility for educator in charge to one of these senior members of the team in the absence of Hayley. This individual would be your point of contact in the absence of management, so for example at the end of day or on a Thursday. The person responsible will be allocated in advance and the team will be able to direct you to this person should you need to discuss something with them. Our team profiles are updated and the parent notice board and, on our website, but at a glance here are your current educators with senior educators highlighted in bold:

Lower nursery		Upper nursery	
Under 18 months	18 months – 30 months	30 months – 3 years	Preschool year
Leanne – level III senior	Sarah – level III senior	Melanie – level III senior	Louise – level III senior
Marilyn – level III	Emma – level III	Charlotte – level III	Paige – level III
Shannon – training	Natasha – level III senior	Rachael – training	Kylie – level III
	Semah – training	Paige – training	

Nursery availability

As you know we have always relied on organic growth within our nursery and so we are delighted that our quality has been recognised and that we no longer have any availability within our upper nursery. With our healthy lower nursery numbers, we anticipate that even as our current preschool cohort leave us in August this will remain the case. Moving forwards, we will only have availability for new children to join us over the age of 30 months if an existing child leaves us, and we are currently operating a waiting list for these spaces.

We are also currently full in lower nursery but we do have spaces for children under 30 months from August / September and again we have a waiting list for these spaces. Just for your information as per our admissions policy places are offered within our nursery in line with the following policy:

- A child requiring full-time day care for five days a week will be given preference over a child requiring three or four days a week.
- A child requiring part-time day care over a minimum of three days will then be considered and places will be offered to the child who requires the most part-time sessions.
- The child's position on the waiting list after the number of full or part-time sessions has been looked into will then be considered.
- The waiting list will also be used should two children require the same day care and the place will be offered to the child highest on the list.
- Where possible preference is given to siblings of children already at the nursery.
- The nursery has a minimum number of 2 full days or 4 sessions on admission.

Emotion coaching – explaining the concept

Supporting children emotionally underpins our practice at KTB Kids. We follow early years best practice and we are lucky with our educated team to be able to effectively coach children to develop their emotional literacy. This is important as it is recognised that children who have a strong foundation in emotional literacy develop good communication skills, tolerate frustration better, get into fewer disputes and engage in less self-destructive behaviour than children who do not have a strong foundation. These children are healthier, less lonely, less impulsive, more focused, and they have greater academic achievement. Young children by developing emotional Literacy are able to recognise their emotions and know how to behave, mature, make and keep friendships and ultimately be happy.

As emotion intelligence is learned, we help our children develop emotional intelligence by ‘coaching’ them. Emotion coaching is helping children understand the different emotions they experience, why they occur, and how to handle them. In the simplest terms, we can coach our children about emotions by comforting them, listening and understand their thoughts and feelings, and helping them understand themselves. As we do this, children feel loved, supported, respected and valued. With this emotionally supportive foundation, the adult will be much more successful at setting limits and problem solving.

Emotion coaching involves:

- Teaching the child ‘in the moment’ about the world of emotions
- Supporting children to develop strategies for dealing with up’s and downs
- Accepting all emotions as normal
- Using moments of unwanted behaviour as opportunities to build trusting and respectful relationships with the child while teaching

At KTB Kids we have produced a guide to emotion coaching to support our educators and our parents in this technique. As consistency is central to the success of any approach with children, we will be sharing this document with our families. If you have any questions at all on this then please do not hesitate to speak with Hayley, as she is leading this teaching within our setting.



Award winning dining: Gold Food for life – highest recognition achieved again

On 12th March this year we had our annual inspection for our Food for Life award. The inspection is a robust and comprehensive 4-hour audit that includes thorough scrutiny of our menus and menu planning, food receipts, suppliers' declarations, dry and cold food stores in addition to observations of service and lunch. I am delighted to confirm that once again we retained our gold standard, and this is even more of an achievement this year as the standards for this award have been raised significantly. This recognition confirms that we offer the highest standards of provenance and traceability, providing reassurance to all our families that 100% of our meals are freshly prepared using healthy, environmentally-sustainable and seasonal ingredients. Please see the extract below from our latest inspection report:

Many thanks to Katie for her time and preparation at inspection. You demonstrated a very high standard of Gold Award at today's inspection - well done. Your commitment to ethical and sustainable purchasing is very apparent; you have done much to investigate where your ingredients come from and to purchase local Kent produce when available. You demonstrated a wide range of Making Healthy Eating Easy actions for the children in your care. It was a pleasure to observe both younger and older children enjoying lunch, serving themselves and being ably assisted by your nursery team. Your menu is very appealing and you encourage feedback from parents; a range of dietary requirements can be catered for. I particularly enjoyed hearing about (and watching Hayley deliver) one of your new cooking activities (Bread Baking Session)! Well done again on a very impressive inspection.

Handwork projects in upper nursery at KTB Kids

Creative learning is a really important part of our curriculum at KTB Kids and to extend the creative opportunities we offer our children within upper nursery we have recently introduced weekly handwork projects. These fit nicely alongside the existing multimedia projects and include the introduction of many new skills including woodwork, weaving, knitting, felting, kneading clay, modelling beeswax and gardening. Hayley's weekly parents email to you will detail the topic the children are working to and will break down the activities the children will be enjoying each week including information on all the project work. Please also do keep an eye on the displays around our upper nursery too, especially in our preschool room where you will see first-hand the progress of these projects and how talented our young children are.

Teaching languages in preschool

It is really important to us to recognise and use each individual team members unique strengths and talents and we are very lucky to have Louise in our team who has a strong interest in languages. We have utilised this and Louise has been working with languages with our preschool children. She has successfully taught the children a French and Spanish alphabet song as well as some basic instructions in French such as how to say 'stand up', 'sit down' and 'are you ready?' Some of the children have also been excitedly sharing their home language with us, for example how to count to 10 in Hindi. We are planning to extend this further over the next few months – so do ask your child what new words or songs they have learnt in nursery – you might be surprised!

Our new baking cycle in upper nursery

Regular baking in our upper nursery helps the children in a number of ways. Cooking is a science experiment. Too many eggs, not enough flour, or the wrong timing and the recipe just won't be the same. Cooking therefore provides an opportunity for children to get hands-on experience with basic science. Through these experiences we see self-confidence grow in the children and it lays the foundation for healthy eating habits. This term we have introduced a new 4-week cycle of baking to our upper nursery. This routine supports children in increasing knowledge of healthy eating, food providence (seasonal eating), and further develops children's social emotional development, cognitive development, language development and physical development.

The seasonal baking cycle at KTB Kids

Week 1: Bread

Week 2: Crumble

Week 3: Cake & biscuits

Week 4: Pastry

All our baking can be sweet or savoury and all are influenced by the season, child choice and special days or events including cultural celebrations. We are flexible with our recipes, and through research we develop ideas and chances for the children to further develop taste opportunities and discover new experiences.

If your family bake for a cultural celebration or special event then we would love it if you could share this with us. When a child brings in a food that is important to their life it provides a wonderful teaching opportunity and helps our children to understand and respect each other's differences, even at this young age. All we ask is for you to share the full ingredient list of anything homemade so that we can ensure we manage individual children's allergies and food intolerances. Thank you in advance.

New shoe policy throughout our nursery

Since we opened 5 years ago, as a management team we regularly discuss how we could implement an indoor shoe policy within our nursery. Whilst we have always known the benefits this could bring, logistically we could not see how we could make it work. However, since our most recent changes to the nursery, with separate upper and lower nursery cloakrooms, where every child has their own cubby, we feel we could now implement this policy but to do so we need your support please. We will shortly be asking for all children, and of course staff too, to bring a pair of indoor shoes into nursery. These can be slippers, or more supportive shoes such as Clarks, but we would ask for a separate pair for outings please. When children arrive at nursery they will change into their indoor shoes, and again after their daily nursery outing.

There are several advantages to this policy, one it will help to reinforce the child's understanding of expected behaviour indoors – i.e. outdoor shoes for running. It also reinforces the ethos and homely environment increasing respect for the indoor nursery space. It of course helps to promote a cleaner environment.

Our aim is to fully embed this new policy in the summer when parents have had the opportunity to bring in the second 'indoor' pair of shoes for us. We thank you in advance for your support with this.

Our seasonal nature display in reception

You may have noticed our new nature table in reception which is inspired by the current season. Our children contribute to this display through their handwork projects, and by collecting natural resources on their trips that are brought back to display. On your way into or out of nursery please ask your child about this display, and hopefully they will share with you their pride and ownership in this, and maybe also the other displays in their room. All our displays create wonderful enriching opportunities for communication with the children, a fact that our educators do not miss throughout the day. If you find any interesting natural objects on your travels, please do bring it into us so we can present it on the nature table 😊

Are you entitled to funding for childcare hours?

If your child is born between 1st January and 31st March then they may be entitled to funding from the local authority for sessions at our nursery from April.

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. 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 to the KELSI funding early years calendar.

**A child born
between:**

In Kent will become eligible to claim their free early education from:

1 April - 31 August

The start of term 1 following their 3rd birthday (after summer holidays) until statutory school age.

**1 September - 31
Dec**

The start of term 3 following their 3rd birthday (after Christmas/New Year holiday) until statutory school age.

**1 January - 31
March**

The start of term 5 following their 3rd 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 weeks throughout the year that the government does not fund.

Save the date – KTB Kids summer picnic –

Wednesday 10th July 2019

We have confirmed the date for our annual summer picnic and this year it will be on the morning of Wednesday 10th July. As always it will be in Dartford park, either by the library entrance or by the bandstand, we will confirm nearer to the time. We have made some changes to the organisation of this event this year and we are splitting the music sessions into a separate lower and upper nursery events. Lower nursery will be entertained by our regular musician Paul at 10:30, and upper nursery will then enjoy their session at 11:45. We will all enjoy a picnic snack together at 11:15 for 30 minutes between the music sessions. We are asking lower nursery parents to join us 10:30 – 11:45 and upper nursery parents to join us 11:15 – 12:45. So if you can, please save the date and join us for what has always been a lovely morning – everyone is welcome



To all our families at KTB Kids, we wish you a wonderful Easter.

Thank you for reading, as always should you have any concerns, complaints or comments that you would like to bring to our attention, our doors are always open.

Your KTB Kids management team
Katie and Hayley
