

## How is Pre-School different to Nursery?

- ❖ At Little Acorns we open 38 weeks a year offering 2 ½ or 4 or 5 ¾ hour sessions.
- ❖ In contrast Nurseries generally open all year round, Mon–Fri, offering care from 8am–6pm.
- ❖ Nurseries are particularly aimed at families where parents work full time and need longer hours of childcare than we offer.
- ❖ There are 2 Nurseries in Shaftesbury – Flying Start and North Dorset Children’s Centre.

## The Nursery Grant

- ❖ All 3 and 4 olds are entitled to 15 hours of free nursery education for 38 weeks of the year or 30 hours if you are eligible. This can take place in nurseries, preschools or with childminders. The 15 hours can be used in one or more setting.  
More information can be found at:  
[www.dorsetforyou.com/childcare-funding/aged-three-and-four](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/childcare-funding/aged-three-and-four)
- ❖ Some children may be eligible for 2 year old funding - for more information go to:  
[www.dorsetforyou.com/childcarefunding/agedtWO](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/childcarefunding/agedtWO)

## Little Acorns Pre-school: Information leaflets for parents



# All about Pre-school

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## About Little Acorns Pre-School

- ❖ The Pre-School was opened in Sept 2000 with the aim of meeting the needs of the local community, by providing an excellent quality of care and education for young children and their families.  
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- ❖ The Pre-School is part of **Father's House, Shaftesbury**; which is a charity, and therefore non-profit making.
- ❖ The Pre-School is open to children from the age of 2 years, 9 months until the time they start Primary School. It opens for 38 weeks a year, following School terms.

## Our two types of session

- ❖ **Tues & Wed** 9.15 – 11.45am **OR** 12.30 – 3pm **OR** 9.15 – 3pm. Children bring a lunch box if they stay all day. **Thurs** 9.15–11.45am. These sessions are available to all children from 2 yrs, 9 mths till they move on to School.
- ❖ **Mon & Fri** 10am – 2pm. These sessions are only open to the children who will be starting School the following September. We call these our **R4S** (Ready 4 School) sessions.

## At Little Acorns

- ❖ The staff are well qualified; ranging from Qualified Teacher Status to NVQ Level 2 & 3.
- ❖ The Pre-School supports children's learning and development within the framework of the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' (EYFS).
- ❖ The Pre-School was judged to be 'Good' by Ofsted in the last inspection in April 2022.

## Our Aims

- ❖ To provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment, which welcomes and values every child and their family.  
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- ❖ To plan and resource the children's environment; providing a range of experiences and activities which encourage the children to have fun and to learn through play.  
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- ❖ To develop children's self esteem and confidence; providing an environment where children are encouraged to explore, observe and think creatively.