

Fun

Play

Enjoy

Learn



“
Children are
extremely happy,
confident and
independent.”
Ofsted 2019

Care

At Footprints, we pride ourselves on delighting your child every day.

We are a place where every member of staff knows your child and a warm welcome to all your family is always guaranteed.

We believe that by treating your child as an individual, and working in harmony with your family values, we get the best for your child and their development. We are passionate about harnessing your child's natural creativity and talents and we do that with encouragement, love and care.

Family

Engage

“
Excellent nursery
with fantastic,
caring and
dedicated staff.”
Parent



Transition through our nursery from tots to pre-school.

So you finally get your child settled into the Footprints family. They make friends, they love the staff, it's close to home and work, you feel confident that they're happy. The situation couldn't be better.

But then they get a bit older and other mums start talking about pre-school and your mind turns to primary school.

Now you have questions and a whole new dilemma.

-  **What is pre-school?**
-  **Does my child have to move now?**
-  **How is pre-school different to nursery?**
-  **What do I need to do to make sure my child has the best start to school?**



There's a lot of confusion around pre-school so here is a complete guide to what it is and why it matters.

Pre-school at **school** vs at **Footprints** - everything you need to know.

Most children begin school at the start of the school year in which they turn five, so when your child is three you may begin researching local primary schools and making your application.

Many primary schools also offer pre-school education for children aged 3-4 years, and may suggest you move your child there before you make your school application. **But is this right for your child?**

Q What's the difference between a pre-school at Footprints and a school's pre-school?

A Both follow the same Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines which impact on the learning, development and care of children from birth to five years. However, there are differences.

Schools follow topic-led teaching that might not be of interest to your child – if they're not interested, they're less likely to get involved and enjoy learning.

Footprints run their pre-school room based on the individual interests and the needs of each child. The staff continuously observe each child and then offer educational activities that help them progress and succeed.

Q What about funding and availability of childcare?

A Both schools and nurseries receive funding for 15 hours (all parents) 30 hours (eligible parents) of childcare a week for children aged 3-4.

Schools often provide morning or afternoon sessions only – you won't be able to pay for extra hours and you must choose one of the sessions. So if you work all day, you'll need to find someone to pick up or drop off your child at lunchtime. Schools only offer pre-school childcare during term-time.

Footprints are open from 7:30am until 6:00pm every day, 51 weeks of the year, so your child continues to receive outstanding preschool education and funding all year round.

Q What about the staff ratios?

A **Schools** are required to have just one adult per 13 children when they are aged between 3-5 years. That could mean there are 26 children with only two adults!

Footprints ratio is one adult to every eight children – that's almost twice as many qualified adults as most schools which gives your child a more personalised and nurturing experience.

Q What about having a key person?

A **Schools** have no such scheme in place. With only one adult for every 13 children, it's almost impossible to give that personal level of attention.

At **Footprints**, your child will be paired with a qualified adult (Key Person) – someone they naturally connect and feel comfortable with. This person will become your contact throughout their time at our nursery.

Q What if the school said my child needs to move now to make friends before they start reception class?

A Have you ever been to a parent and toddler group and by the time you leave, your little one is firm friends with another child? It doesn't take long for children to build strong relationships.

Children are naturally friendly and curious – they will approach their peers and make friends with ease. Do not be put under pressure and made to feel guilty about keeping your child at a private nursery's pre-school where they are already happy and confident.

Q Will my child lose their place at the school if I don't move them?

A The school doesn't make the decision about who is accepted into the reception year – that decision is made at the Local Authority level.

There have been cases where a parent has moved their child to a pre-school (under pressure from the school to secure a reception place) only to discover that they don't then get a place at that school.

Just because a child attends a school nursery doesn't guarantee them a place at that school, so make the decision based on what's best for your child.





Questions to ask before deciding between a school's pre-school and Footprints' pre-school.

-  What is the staff to children ratio?
-  Will my child get help going to the toilet if needed?
-  What if a child has a toileting accident? Who will help them? How many staff will be left with the other children during that time?
-  What early years qualifications and training do the staff have?
-  Are pre-school staff trained in first aid?
-  Does the nursery have a suitable environment, resources and equipment for three and four year old children?
-  Is your child settled and happy at nursery? If so you don't need to move them to a pre-school at a local primary school. They will receive a good education and care from qualified staff in a suitable environment at Footprints pre-school.



The benefits of your child staying at Footprints pre-school.

-  **Your child is settled**
Settling your child into nursery is a stressful time for both of you – being able to drop them off at nursery and leave them smiling and waving is the biggest relief for a parent. Why put yourself and your child through the stress of an unnecessary move to another pre-school?

We know your child well so they don't lose any time settling into a new setting. They can hit the ground running with their education as they move through to our outstanding pre-school room.
-  **Excellent resources**
Budgets are tight in primary education – not many schools have the money for extensive specific early years resources but instead share with the whole school. Footprints regularly invests in new age-appropriate equipment and resources to keep children entertained and challenged.
-  **Healthy nutrition**
Home cooked food with daily menus and eating as a group which will help your child when they start their journey at primary school.
-  **Outdoor stimulation**
Exciting outdoor play area and visits around the local community.
-  **Regular assessments**
8 weekly assessments to make sure your child is on track with their development.
-  **Languages**
Fun, exciting and interactive Spanish sessions.
-  **Qualified early years teachers**
Footprints employs qualified early years teachers to help get children school-ready in its pre-school, so they start Reception confident and happy. We understand the importance of the EYFS ethos of learning through play and we pay particular attention to school readiness i.e. phonics, reading, writing and above all physical, social and emotional development (PSED).
-  **Family, fun and caring environment**
Giving children security and continuity for learning and progress.
-  **Exercise**
"Stretch-n-Grow" focussed sessions to develop motor skills.
-  **Planned transition into school**
This includes visits from teachers, progress reports shared and verbal handovers between staff.



“

Children benefit from rich experiences that help them to learn about the world around them.”

Ofsted 2019

Pre-school needn't be an upheaval but a natural part of their early year's education at Footprints Day Nursery.





Nurture

Encourage

Praise



Footprints Macclesfield
154 Cumberland Street
Macclesfield
Cheshire SK10 1BP



Footprints Bollington
Albert Road
Bollington
Cheshire SK10 5HS

☎ 01625 662200
✉ family@footprintsnurseries.co.uk
🌐 www.footprintsnurseries.co.uk  

