



prospectus



where everything is possible   
**Pumpkin Patch**  
Nursery & Forest School





# Outstanding in all areas!

...‘the children flourish at this inspirational nursery’

...‘the children know they are important and unique’

...‘the children have high self-esteem and self-belief’

...‘innovative and inspirational outdoor area’

...‘The management team is truly inspirational’

...‘partnerships with parents are superb’

Ofsted



# ‘where everything is possible’

## Pumpkin Patch Nursery

At the heart of our approach is a ‘Powerful Image of the Child’ as strong,  
full of potential and capable of leading their own learning.

We believe that every child has the right to high quality early years education.

Inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach from Italy and the Forest schools of Scandinavia.



### The nurseries values and principles

- To encourage and support each child to flourish through valuing and celebrating their individual achievements.
- To work in partnership with parents and the community to enhance the development and education of all children.
- To recognise and embrace the diversity of families and to ensure equal access of opportunity for all children
- To work together with parents and outside agencies to ensure that children with special educational needs are identified early and are supported to reach their full potential.

### We will achieve this by offering

- A highly skilled and passionate staff team who are dedicated to delivering a specially tailored curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of every child.
- An environment and experiences which follow the principles of The Early Years Foundation stage curriculum which focuses on learning through play and exploration both indoors and outdoors
- Individual attention made possible by a high ratio of adults to children.
- The support of a personal keyperson.
- Opportunities for you and your family to be directly involved in the activities offered in the group and in your own child's progress.
- A nursery environment that exceeds the standards set out in the statutory framework for Full Day Care.
- Ongoing evaluation and monitoring of equality of opportunity for all by the nursery's Equal Opportunities Officer.
- Regular evaluation and improvement upon our current practices by taking part in quality assurance programmes.
- Providing a wide range of opportunities for your child to thrive, explore and develop independence such as Forest School and Beach School.

### Registration and Inspections

The Pumpkin Patch Nursery is registered annually by OFSTED. You can contact OFSTED on 0300 123 1231 or by email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

Pumpkin Patch Brighton is rated as Outstanding.

Pumpkin Patch Hove is rated as Outstanding.

Pumpkin Patch Worthing St Botolph's Road is rated as Outstanding.

Pumpkin Patch Worthing Crescent Road has not yet been inspected.

Pumpkin Patch in the Park, Wish Park Hove is rated as Outstanding.

Pumpkin Patch Steyning is rated as Good.

You can view the reports on OFSTED's website. [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

### Opening times

Hove	Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6pm
Brighton	Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6pm
Wish Park, Hove	Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6pm
Worthing St Botolphs Road	Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm
Worthing Crescent Road	Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm
Steyning	Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6pm

### Management & Administration

Pumpkin Patch Nurseries are owned by Anita O'Hara who began Pumpkin Patch in 1996 as a part-time nursery at Withdean Stadium, Brighton. Over the years she has expanded the nurseries, taking time off to have her three children. Having her own young children, working and completing a degree in Early Years has given Anita a real understanding of what parents want and need for their children. Anita is committed to ongoing development and draws inspiration from the Italian 'Reggio Emilia' approach as well as the Scandinavian 'Forest Schools.' Anita has travelled and studied in Italy, Sweden and Iceland to explore how these world renowned approaches can challenge what we offer and develop Pumpkin Patch's outstanding practice.



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[www.pumpkinpatchnursery.com](http://www.pumpkinpatchnursery.com)



Preston Drove Brighton



### **Pumpkin Patch Nursery Brighton**

**01273 554484**

Located at 37 Preston Drove our Brighton Nursery is a large detached house with an extensive garden that has been thoughtfully redesigned and renovated to create a relaxed, homely and inspiring environment for young children. The nursery benefits from being located across from Preston Park where the children are able to explore the woods, go on a bird walk or sketch the flowers and are supported by our outstanding team of educators, Early Years teachers, chef, Forest School leaders, and Artist in Residence. The nursery caters for 90 children aged 0-5 years.

Nursery Manager Caroline Costello

[brighton@pumpkinpatchnursery.com](mailto:brighton@pumpkinpatchnursery.com)



New Church Road, Hove



### **Pumpkin Patch Nursery Hove**

**01273 227000**

The Hove Pumpkin Patch is located at 109 New Church Road, near Wish Park in Hove. Being a converted house it gives the nursery a homely, relaxed atmosphere for the children to learn and grow in. The nursery is located close to the seafront and the children are able to make use of the beach as an extended classroom for exploring, developing independence or observe the unique biodiversity of the rock pools and are supported by our outstanding team of educators, Early Years teachers, chef, Forest School leaders, and Artist in Residence. The nursery caters for 55 children aged 0-5 years.

Nursery Manager Sara Thwaites

[hove@pumpkinpatchnursery.com](mailto:hove@pumpkinpatchnursery.com)

Wish Park, Hove



### **'Pumpkin in the Park'**

**Pumpkin Patch Nursery Wish Park,  
Hove 01273 227000**

Saxon Road Hove BN3 4LF

Pumpkin in the Park is set in the beautiful Wish Park in Hove, where the children can explore all the park has to offer - wide-open spaces to run, climb, jump and play games as well as the wonderful Wish Park allotment for growing and planting.

Pumpkin in the Park also has its own enclosed garden directly off our wonderful open plan nursery space specially created for children aged two to five years supported by our outstanding team of educators, Early Years teachers, chef, Forest School leaders, and Artist in Residence. The nursery is located close to the coast where the children are able to make use of the beach as an extended classroom for exploring, developing independence or observe the unique biodiversity of the rock pools.

The nursery caters for 60 children aged 2 - 5 years.

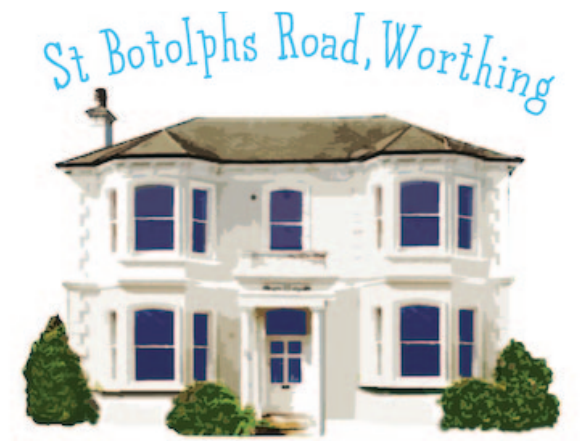
Nursery Manager Carolynn Beveridge

[park@pumpkinpatchnursery.com](mailto:park@pumpkinpatchnursery.com)



**Pumpkin Patch Nursery**  
**St Botolphs Road Worthing**  
**01903 236643**

Located at 21 St. Botolphs Road, our Worthing Nursery is a large detached house with beautiful, spacious rooms and an extensive garden providing an environment for creativity and exploration for young children who are supported by our outstanding team of educators, Early Years teachers, chef, Forest School leaders, and Artist in Residence. The nursery benefits from being located close to the beach, Victoria Park, Worthing town centre and several primary schools. The nursery is a few minutes walk from West Worthing train station. The nursery caters for 120 children aged 0-5 years.  
Nursery Manager Denise Franklin  
worthing@pumpkinpatchnursery.com



**Pumpkin Patch Nursery**  
**Crescent Road Worthing**  
**01903 495085**

Located at 40 Crescent Road Worthing our new nursery opened in February 2023 is set in a beautiful detached Victorian villa close to the town centre. The building has been thoughtfully designed and renovated to create a relaxed, homely and inspiring environment for young children.  
The nursery caters for 60 children aged 0-5 years.  
Nursery Manager Leanne de Courcy  
crescent.road@pumpkinpatchnursery.com



**Steyning**



**Pumpkin Patch Nursery Steyning**  
**01903 810100**

Located at 1 Chanctonfold, Horsham Rod, Steyning. Our new nursery opened in January 2023 and is set in beautiful converted farm buildings in the countryside near Steyning. The building has been thoughtfully designed and renovated to create a relaxed, homely and inspiring environment for young children.  
The nursery caters for 92 children aged 0-5 years.  
Nursery Manager Sam Gunning  
steyning@pumpkinpatchnursery.com





## Parental Involvement

Pumpkin Patch recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their young children and aims to support parents in this process. We encourage parents to be actively involved in the nursery in a variety of ways.

- We are a private day nursery so we do not have a formal parent rota but would welcome any parent who wishes to spend a session in the nursery to do so.
- Parents and carers and other family members often come in and share their knowledge and skills with the children. We have had parents join us to share their musical instruments, do sing and sign with the babies and cook Latke's with the pre-school children.
- We value and welcome parents contributions to their child's ongoing assessments.
- We hold regular parents evenings so that you can come in and speak with your child's keyperson to find out what they have been doing and how they are progressing.
- Your child's keyperson spends quality time with your child observing their interests and development level. This information is used to inform planning and ensure that your child has an individual learning journey designed to nurture their learning style, support their play and encourage them to learn through purposeful play. Your child's profile is available online for you to review your child's progress, make comments and share with your child to support and extend their learning at home. After starting the nursery you will be given a unique secure log-in password to access your child's profile.
- The notice board by the front door of the nursery will contain information such as the current menu and other items of interest.
- When you collect your child at the end of their session a member of staff will tell you about your child's day - those special moments that made your child laugh or smile. This is also a good opportunity for you to ask any other questions or just to have an informal chat and get to know the staff team. Information about your child's day e.g nappy changes, meals, sleeps etc will be shared with you throughout the day on 'Family', the Nursery's online management system.

## Special Rights

Pumpkin Patch offers special support to families and children with additional needs. We have a dedicated Senco at each setting who has extensive skills and knowledge and will work one-to-one with you and your child. Training the staff team, co-ordinating an individual program that meets your child's needs, drawing on other professionals were needed.

## Keyperson

Our Keyperson system gives each member of staff responsibility for only a few children. Each child in a group has one special adult to build a close relationship with which makes settling into the group much easier. The key person maintains links with the child's home setting, works with parents through shared record keeping and ensures that all children are supported in reaching their full potential.

## Settling your child into nursery

We recognise that separation can be a difficult time for parents and children therefore we offer a flexible induction. Once you have decided to send your child to Pumpkin Patch we will discuss your individual requirements and tailor a settling in period which meets you and your child's needs. We like to increase the period of time your child stays at nursery over the settling in process so when you leave your child for their first full session you can be confident that they will enjoy their time at nursery.

## Nursery Food

Each nursery has an experienced nursery chef who prepares your child's meals daily at the nursery. The older children have opportunities to help with the preparation of snacks and teas to encourage children to learn about healthy food choices and make meals a fun part of the day. The menus are changed throughout the year to ensure that high quality, fresh, seasonal produce is used to create well balanced, nutritional meals. We also encourage the children to explore where foods come from by picking apples from our apple trees or growing herbs in the garden to use in soups and lunches. Older children have the opportunity to be a 'nursery chef' working together with an adult to make part of the nursery meal 'bake bread' chop vegetables and lay the tables with fresh flowers, real crockery and glass water jugs. They will then invite their friends to come and serve their own meals and support the younger children to try new foods and develop their independence.



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## **Curriculum**

The nursery is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach and follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which was introduced in September 2021 it consists of 7 areas of learning:

### **The Three Prime Areas**

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Within a nurturing environment, children are individually supported to develop confidence, autonomy and independence. They will learn to value and respect themselves and others. Through activities and daily routines children will be encouraged to become independent individuals who are eager and motivated to learn and explore the world around them whilst gaining an awareness of who they are and to feel good about themselves. They are encouraged to work and concentrate independently and also to take part in the life of the group. (example e.g. by helping to prepare fruit for snack time, watering the plants in the nursery garden or counting out how many cups are needed for lunch time.)

#### **Communication and Language**

Throughout the day children are encouraged to use language for communicating, thinking, reading and writing, whilst extending and developing their vocabulary and fluency. They can listen and join in with stories, rhymes, sing songs and explore rhythm and sound. The children are helped to understand that written symbols carry meaning, to be aware of the purposes of writing and to use drawn and written symbols themselves. (e.g. writing a shopping list in the role play corner or writing labels for the beans they planted in the garden.) A well stocked and cosy book corner gives every child the opportunity to become familiar with books. By handling books, the child becomes aware of its uses, both for reference and as a source of stories and pictures.

#### **Physical Development**

A range of equipment and opportunities, both indoors and outdoors, allows children to develop confidence and enjoyment of their own body skills. A very high level of adult supervision enables children safely to create and meet physical challenges, developing skill and control in moving, climbing and balancing. At the same time, children are supported in the development of the fine motor skills needed to use tools, including pens and pencils, and to handle small objects with increasing control and precision. Through adult supported activities the children will learn to understand good practices with regards to eating, sleeping, exercise and hygiene and how these things contribute to good health.







## The Four Specific Areas

### Mathematics

By means of adult-supported play children become familiar with sorting, matching, ordering, sequencing and counting activities which form the basis for early mathematics. As they use their developing mathematical understanding to solve practical problems, children are assisted to learn and use mathematical vocabulary, and get to grips with the concepts of shape, position, size, volume and number. (e.g. weighing ingredients to make porridge for the three bears or counting out how many plates we need for tea) Children will also have daily opportunities to engage with songs, games and books to help the children become aware of number sequences and early addition and subtraction problems.

### Understanding the World

All children will have daily opportunities to explore and experiment with a range of natural and man-made materials. They will be encouraged to explore features of objects and substances, using all of their senses. They will learn to recognise differences, patterns and similarities, and to share and record their findings. Children are assisted in exploring and understanding their environment, both within the group and also the wider community. They will develop an understanding of the cultures and beliefs of others and learn that people speak different languages. They will be encouraged to share stories about their experiences and talk about their home lives, valuing their own and those of others. A range of safe and well maintained equipment enable the children to extend their technological understanding, using simple tools and techniques, as appropriate, to achieve their intentions and to solve problems.

### Expressive Arts and Design

Children are encouraged to use a wide range of resources to express their own ideas and feelings, and develop their imaginations. Art equipment, such as paint, glue, crayons and pencils as well as natural and discarded resources, provides for open-ended exploration of colour, shape, form, and texture and the development of skills needed for painting, drawing, design and construction. Children join in with and respond to music and stories, and there are many opportunities for imaginative role-play, both individually and as part of a group.



### Literacy

We support children's natural curiosity of written language and reading through our literacy friendly environments. Using written letters, words and signs to support our learning environment, using pre-writing and reading activities (drawing shapes and symbols in wet sand) and phonics activities. We are guided by your child, playing alongside them and sharing our passion for reading and books. When children are ready to make the journey into formal reading we use jolly phonics and early reading books alongside fiction texts to explore letters and sounds together with using the pictures to support understanding of the stories and text.







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