

Mission Statement



Butterflies Pre School & Nature School: Where Children are Nurtured in Nature

Butterflies Pre School & Nature School is committed to delivering exceptional Early Years Learning where each child can *grow, explore and discover* as individuals.

Safeguarding, sustainability and equal opportunities are at the forefront of all our policies and practices.

We offer a hybrid of traditional preschool and forest school programming to enrich each child's experience and provide a range of opportunities for them to succeed alongside the Early Years Framework. Our child led approach allows each child to holistically *discover* the world around them and their own abilities, *grow* as individuals and *explore* their potential.



Butterflies Pre School & Nature School: Where Children are Nurtured in Nature

Butterflies Pre School Nature School program developed holistically as staff strived to use the exceptional outdoor space that our setting lends itself to. Butterflies Pre School not only benefits from a large garden and a Secret Garden nature space, but also the wider external setting of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley.

Our blended approach combines the very best of traditional classroom based preschool play alongside Forest School learning to deliver a child centre experience and the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) statutory framework.

All our practice is child led and is centred around the needs of each individual child.

We use selected elements from approaches such as Anna Ephgrave's 'in the moment' teaching, Simon Nicholson's 'loose parts theory', Reggio Emilia and holistic Forest School learning. Throughout all our activities the children develop within the 7 curriculum areas as described in the EYFS framework.

These are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

All Forest School lessons, including tools and fire, will be run by a trained Forest School practitioner. In addition to this, all staff at Butterflies are committed to nature-based education and will help to facilitate this through a range of activities including nature walks, free flow access to the outdoors, sustainability education and promoting a love of the outdoors.





Our Curriculum

Butterflies Preschool runs a **hybrid** approach; the Nature School combines the very best from traditional preschool with Forest School elements. As practitioners we are here to facilitate the learning and natural development of each child through observation, scaffolding, support and role modelling. We provide children opportunities to extend their learning, peer-peer role modelling and to connect their understanding with the world around them.

We aim to foster a love of the outdoors and instil the importance of sustainability whilst empowering children to care for the world around them. Our free flow indoor-outdoor approach provides children the opportunity to direct their own learning. We ensure that there are creative, sensory, construction and role play opportunities both inside and outside. Our approach is individual and led by each child as they are each on their own journey to *explore, discover and grow*.

On Site

At Butterflies Pre School we are a blessed with a fantastic natural landscape. All children at Butterflies are given access to the outdoors in our garden space. The children are not limited to the amount of time they can spend outdoors during the morning and afternoon sessions. Our purple suits/all in one suit and fleeces help to keep children dry and warm so that outdoor play can continue regardless of the weather.

The sand pit, mud kitchen, outdoor painting, construction and digging area are open daily providing a range of play and learning opportunities. Weather permitting, the Secret Garden and balancing areas are also open.

Children at the Nature School also experience campfires where we share songs, stories and enjoy the sensory experience. At least once a half term the children help to prepare and cook a snack over the fire, be that bread, soup or pizzas!

Off Site

Adventure Walks are a fantastic off-site opportunity in which children can explore Happy Valley and Farthing Downs. These walks take place during Morning and Afternoon sessions, or full day adventures, depending on the day. The walks allow smaller groups of children to play and learn in nature.

These walks may include a specific focus such as den building, tree identification, climbing, balancing, literacy and numeracy games, bug hunts or pond dipping. We practice a 'Don't Lick, Don't Pick' policy which protects children and the environment.

Inside The Lodge

Inside the Lodge we run a traditional Pre School. We are a free flow setting, which means the children can move between indoors and outdoors and direct their own learning.

Our dedicated book corner promotes a love of literacy and language. Children can read books independently or with teaches and peers.

We have a sensory table indoors where we routinely rotate between kinetic sand, playdough and other sensory play. Children develop fine motors skills through cutting and rolling, play dough mats are used to teach letter identification, numeracy, facial expressions and seasonal changes.

Our construction and building areas include multiple mediums such as Duplo, blocks/bricks, trains and tracks and magnetic tiles.

Expressive Arts and Design includes child led activities such as painting, chalk art, drawing, collage, cutting and sticking and teacher led crafts.

The role play area, home corner and dress up allows children to play and discover with imaginative and 'real world' scenarios.

Puzzles, numeracy games, counting blocks and other resources are on shelves for children to select and explore.

Our learning and songs and activities are often centred around a theme which the children's previous learning and interests have inspired. Some of our favourites include Space, Dinosaurs, Winter Animals and Habitats, Butterflies and Spring, and Mythical Creatures.

