

LITTLE ACORNS



DAY NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL
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Hull
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Eco Friendly Policy

At Little Acorns we are dedicated to making the world a better and more sustainable place for our children and future generations to grow up in. Looking after the world around us is especially important and we must be good role models for our children. The early years sector has a vital role to play to make this possible, so we have embedded eco-friendly practices throughout the nursery.

Plastic Waste

We have many ways within the nursery that we recycle plastic and this is throughout all rooms including the office and the kitchen.

- **Recycle all single use plastic waste** – We recycle all single use plastics such as milk bottles, cardboard boxes, and paper. All rooms have their own recycle bins for this waste.
- **Send all wet clothes home in wet bags (provided by parents)** – We ask all parents to provide a reusable wet bag to send home wet clothes in. The nursery does sell these so please ask if you wish to purchase one.
- **Nappy's/Wipes** – the setting supports and encourages parents to send their child with reusable nappy's and cloth wipes.
- **Re-fill anti bac bottles/ soap** – All hand soaps are wall dispensers and are filled up when needed. No plastic bottles of soap are used. Anti bac products and sprays are all refillable.
- **Nappy changes/PPE** – Children will be changed as and when needed. They will be checked on a regular basis. All soiled nappies will go in a nappy sack to avoid any smell or spread of infection. Wet nappies will be wrapped up tightly and placed straight in the bin with no sack. Staff have the choice whether to use gloves or not and all staff practice good hand hygiene. No single use aprons are purchased. Staff keep a spare change of clothing in their lockers in case of any accidents. – reusable cotton tabards are worn for meal and snack times rather than single use ones.
- **Shopping** – When purchasing our shopping, we avoid buying items in packaging for example we will buy loose fruit rather than the packs of fruit. We also buy much of our stock from wholesalers to reduce the amount of packaging consumed.
- **Use reusable bags when shopping** – If we need to shop outside of the weekly shop that is delivered, we only use recyclable bags.

Reducing carbon footprint

Reducing our carbon footprint is an important part of how we can make a difference. Every change we make, no matter how small will reduce our carbon footprint and have a positive effect on the environment.

- **Electrical equipment**- We use laptops and IPADS which use less energy than a desktop pc. All our electrical appliances purchased have an efficient star rating. All our lights are LED which use ¼ less energy than incandescent lights and last 25% longer. All plug sockets are turned off when not needed. Heating is only on for when its needed. It is turned off over the weekends
- **Water** - We use filtered water rather than bottled water reducing single use plastic. We have a water butt which collects rainfall for our children to use for their play whilst in the garden.
- **Food Waste** - We use food waste to make compost which in turn we use to grow our own vegetables for snack.
- **Commuting** - Staff who can car share are encouraged too. A bike rack for staff/children who can bike to nursery is available to store them securely

Resources

Early years settings are full of resources. The toys and materials we buy or use for our children can have a global effect on our planet.

- **Plastic toys** – As a setting we follow the curiosity approach with promotes the use of authentic and natural resources, so therefore, we have a limited number of plastic toys in the setting. Any plastic toys we do have are recycled when we have finished with them or given to charity shop. We source a lot of our authentic resources from charity shops and car boot sales.
- **Glitter**—We understand the horrific damage glitter does to our environment and oceans and therefore we have made the choice not to purchase glitter for the children. Instead, the children make their own glitter using salt/pepper shakers with coloured rice and oats etc.
- **Craft resources** – We are very mindful about the craft materials given to children. We do not purchase sequins. We encourage the children to use natural collage materials such as paper, twigs, leaves etc.
- **Brown paper bags** – As a setting we have a lot of initiatives that we like to carry out to support home learning. We create bags for the parents using brown paper bags only.
- **Source products from scrap store/ charity shops** – A large majority of our resources come from charity shops or the scrap store which are both eco-friendly, recycled goods.

Education

Educating people is key to make changes the we need to see. If we educate the future generations, they will continue with the positive changes we are trying to make now

- Our children will experience the natural world when at nursery

- We will teach them about the world and all that it offers us
- We will help our children to recycle
- We will encourage them to treat nature with respect
- We will teach them how to plant herbs and vegetables and care for these
- We will encourage children to try new fresh foods

Food and drink

The food and drink we buy and consume can impact on our carbon footprint.

- **Menus**— Our menus are carefully thought of and designed to meet the needs of all our children and families. We have ‘meat free Mondays’ every week. All food is locally sourced.
- **Reduce food waste** – All of our children are given correct portion sizes for their ages according to NHS guidelines. This helps to prevent food waste.
- **Water and milk**- is provided for the children in reusable cups. Milk cartons with straws are not purchased. Only bottles of milk that are recyclable are used.

What can I do at home?

Helping the environment relies on all of us. It is not one person’s job. We can make changes in all aspects of our lives both at home and at work. At home you can do the following:

- ✓ Walk places that are not too far rather than hop in the car. You also get some extra steps in!
- ✓ Switch off lights when you are not in the room
- ✓ Unplug appliances, do not leave them in standby
- ✓ Switch to energy saving lightbulbs. They last 15 times longer and use 80% less energy, and you save money
- ✓ Cooking from scratch can reduce packing and it can often mean it's healthier
- ✓ Try to make vegetarian meals. Meat produces carbon emissions which can impact the environment
- ✓ Use bags for life when shopping rather than buy single use carrier bags
- ✓ Recycle your packaging
- ✓ Get into gardening. Plant some flowers and help the bees pollenate the crops
- ✓ Buy recyclable wrapping paper (not foil)
- ✓ Buy from charity shops (you can get some great toys and clothes, lots still with tags on)
- ✓ Why not opt for bamboo toothbrushes for the whole family
- ✓ Switch to cloth nappies and cloth wipes

Where can I donate to?

There are many wonderful charities to donate all your preloved items from clothes, to toys to household items such as pots, pans, and furniture. Here are a list of wonderful charities you could donate to. This list is not exhaustive: (the nursery has no affiliation with any one charity)

- ✓ Dove house hospice
- ✓ British heart foundation

- ✓ Scope
- ✓ Mind
- ✓ Age Uk
- ✓ Save the children
- ✓ Oxfam
- ✓ Supermarkets have recycle bays also (check your local supermarket)
- ✓ There are many local charity shops to donate too also

Useful Websites

<https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

<http://www.hull.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/recycling>

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-recycling/tips-and-recycling-sites/household-waste-recycling-sites-and-tips/>

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INFORMATION FOR THIS POLICY WAS SOURCED FROM: Nursery's own policy, Government Website.