

About us and our Mission Statement

A fun, caring environment, providing the
Best start for our children and families
Creating lasting memories.

Our mission at ABC Childcare is to provide the highest standards of care and education to children and their families. We believe by **creating a fun, caring environment** with facilities of the highest quality, this provides **the best start for our children and families**. This is underpinned by our strong staffing team who encourage our children in reaching their full potential and becoming confident learners and **creating lasting memories** together.

We are open 51 weeks of the year, 7.30am-6.00pm, and closed on Bank holidays and closed one week during Christmas. We welcome children from 3 months old up to 5 years old. In our older age range, where parents are eligible, we offer limited spaces for two year funding, and 3-5 year funding. All funded places are stretched across the year as we are open during school holidays. Our office team will discuss the options we have available in order to best allocate your child's funding.

All children aged 3 & 4 are entitled to free nursery education, this is a universal service therefore, this includes families living outside of the borough/county. Some children are entitled to extended funded hours if they meet a certain criteria and can apply through the online checking service on www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare. Terrific for Twos/ Think Two funding is criteria based and families can apply through the online checking service terrificfortwos.com. Early years pupil premium (EYPP) is another source of funding for settings enabling them to offer additional resources and support for eligible children.

ABC Childcare standards for learning, development and care for children

Here at ABC Childcare we are committed to providing a setting which is accessible and safe, challenging and rewarding for all children and their families. At the heart of our practice we are devoted to offering high quality care and education adopting an inclusive approach in our bespoke purpose built setting. ABC Childcare:

- Adhere to and follow the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Promote individual learning characteristics in a stimulating, challenging environment.
- Use a key worker approach to ensure each child feels safe and secure.
- Adapt activities to ensure inclusive practice.
- Set policies including S.E.N.D (Special Education Needs and Disability) and behaviour management to maintain high standards.
- Has designated leads who are responsible for and specifically trained in S.E.N.D, behaviour management and ENCO (Equalities Named Coordinator).
- Create and maintain high quality indoor and outdoor environments for playing and learning.
- Supporting children's learning in healthy eating and oral hygiene.
- Are active within the local community.

In addition, both our centres have a library for both staff and children. Our Codsall centre hosts specific learning spaces, including a sensory room and little explorers room.

ABC Early Learning & Childcare Centre – Local Offer

How we support the children’s learning and development.

ABC has developed a bespoke curriculum to offer enhanced learning opportunities for children and their families in order to support high standards of learning and development. Such activities include relaxation and mindfulness, oral health, music and movement, woodland school, eco school, sensory classes, cookery and baking. In addition to this, we also run a programme of wriggle write, phonics, dough disco and Numicon which is adapted to support all ages and stages of development. Practitioners also implement Makaton, and support families and staff through using a sign of the week, which is shared on our online nurse management app. The setting SENCO’s take the lead on ensuring that sign of the week is shared with children, families and practitioners.

How will ABC Childcare support and prepare your child to join ABC Childcare?

Each child and family are important to us and we understand how difficult it is for parents/carers to leave their children in a place that is unfamiliar to them. We appreciate the importance of building trust and positive relationships at the onset of a family enquiring about our Centres.

- Families are invited to view our Centre where a comprehensive tour will be offered and an introduction to all staff members. Discussions will take place at this time about your child’s individual needs.
- Two settling in sessions will be offered for your child where you will have the opportunity to meet your child’s key worker and see the room which they will be based in. During this time, we will discuss any necessary measures we may need to take to ensure your child is safe, engaged and included in as many of our activities as possible.
- Families are asked to complete a development flower before your child begins at the Centre. - This is an assessment of your child’s development as you see it, before they join us at ABC Childcare. This development flower ensures that our practitioners are able to assess your child’s progress on their learning journey and helps to plan how we can best support them.
- Any other professionals already working alongside your family will be invited to attend a meeting with a member of the Management team and designated lead person to ensure all the needs of your child are met. This support will be ongoing during the duration of your time with us.
- Our rooms are separated by age ranges: Babies (3 months – 1 year), Toddlers (1– 2 years), Juniors (2 – 3 years) and Pre-school (over 3s). Whilst the rooms children are in will generally follow an age range, children develop at different rates and when deciding which environment is best for your child, their age alone will never be the deciding factor.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support your child will receive?

If we feel your child may need additional support, our highly skilled Practitioners will take time to observe, assess and discuss any outcomes with you. If necessary, and always with your consent, our Centre designated lead Practitioners may begin an Early Help Assessment. This Early Help Assessment will help identify if and where any extra supported is needed ABC Childcare and from outside agencies.

Consent from parents/carers will always be sought before any outside professionals are contacted.

- ABC Childcare works in partnership with parents/carers. This enables open discussion, continuity and overall, it best supports your child.
- We will also follow instruction about the amount of support your child will receive through any agencies involved.

We would also work closely with parents and external agencies to ensure that ABC is the right provision to fully meet the individual needs of that child

How do ABC Childcare communicate with parents/carers about their child's progress and how are parents/carers involved in decision making and planning?

Communication is crucial for us to ensure that your child receives the best care and education. Parents/carers will always be consulted when we make decisions about support for their child.

- Regular meetings will take place between the Management team, designated lead Practitioners, key workers and other professionals involved.
- Individual development plans are drawn between the designated lead and other professionals involved. These plans are monitored by the designated lead alongside the child's key worker and targets are reviewed regularly.
- Communication books can be used to write messages between the Centre, any other setting your child may attend and home.
- Daily detailed handovers are given from staff members to parents/carers to ensure all relevant information is shared.
- Each child has their own online learning journey which documents their learning and development progress and can be viewed at any time.
- Our experienced Practitioners will offer support and guidance to parents/carers.
- We have an open door policy whereby anyone who wishes to discuss any matters, can approach the Centre at any time convenient to them.
- In addition, we actively encourage parents/carers to make comments and suggestions using our parent communication box or via e-mail (feedback@abcchildcarecentres.co.uk). We also encourage parents to complete staff shout out forms for positive feedback.
- Development reviews are carried out between parents/carers and key workers to ensure parents are kept up to date with any development changes, including any ongoing support in place.
- The designated lead will attend or may actively host any T.A.C. (Team Around the Child) meetings that may be required. This will be alongside the family and any other agencies that may be involved in supporting your child.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's individual needs?

At ABC Childcare we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage, which can be adapted to meet the requirements of all children's individual needs.

- All Practitioners will follow activities suitable for your child's developmental age rather than their age expectation.
- ABC Childcare regularly observes, assesses and monitor your child's development. Our experienced Practitioners will use the results to decide what they will put in to place to progress your child further.
- ABC Childcare will conduct a 2 year check to assess your child's development. The check can then be shared with your health visitor (who will also conduct their own 2 year check).
- All our environments are suitable and accessible to all children and can be adapted to ensure that all children can take part in given activities.
- All Practitioners and children enjoy a mix of adult led and child initiated activities.

What support will there be for my child’s overall well-being and mental health?

Your child’s well-being and mental health is paramount to us, therefore we ensure that:

- A comprehensive set of policies and procedures are adhered to at all times.
- We carry out Risk Assessments wherever necessary.
- All meals are nutritious and freshly made onsite, following our strict healthy eating policy which includes snacks that children can bring from home.
- Dietary requirements (including allergies, intolerances, cultural and religious beliefs) are all met and healthy alternatives provided where necessary.
- Supporting children in understanding and managing their emotions and feelings
- Using play and stories to support the children in exploring emotions and open discussion on the stories and character’s.
- We are also developing a woodland school to teach the children the benefits of nature and being outdoors. This will also support the mental health and well being of all children within centre.
- All our Practitioners are trained in Safeguarding Level 1 and Paediatric First Aid.
- Our equality and diversity policy dictates inclusion - this is demonstrated throughout the Centre, and is imbedded in our everyday practice including our displays, activities and resources.

How does ABC support children with additional needs?

Where parents or practitioners have concerns about a child’s learning and development, support programmes are implemented without delay in order to identify strategies that support the children’s individual needs. any additional support can be identified and implemented as soon as possible. Where needed, staff also seek information from external professionals, such as health visitors, speech and language therapists to ensure that children are getting the best support throughout their time at the centre. Regular meetings are also held to share vital information and ensure that parents and carers are fully informed on their child’s progress at nursery

How are our resources allocated and matched to children with special educational needs?

There are a range of resources at ABC Childcare both child accessible and adult led.

- All resources are risk assessed before they are allocated for use.
- Resources compliment developmental ages.
- Appropriate resources are selected considering the individual needs of the children we care for.
- All resources are monitored for wear and tear and are dealt with appropriately, either repaired or discarded.
- Practitioners are aware of how to use resources effectively to promote interest, and provide opportunities for children to be challenged, in a safe environment.
- Most resources are readily accessible by the children. In addition, there are separate resources that can be used on a 1:1 basis with the designated lead or key worker.

Transferring to a new setting or the next stage of education and life

We understand that this time can be stressful for both children and parents alike. We aim to make all transitions as smooth as possible, whether the transition is from one age range to the next, or on to another setting.

- During transitions to a new room within ABC Childcare, the individual child's developmental progress and individual needs are comprehensively documented. A child's current key worker will also meet with the child's new key worker to discuss and support the documentation and ensure continuity.
- Parents/carers have the opportunity to visit their child's new room and meet the staff that work within it. This will familiarise parents/carers with the new environment, possible routine changes and new key worker.
- Any designated leads involved will automatically be involved in transitions.
- When your child moves on from ABC Childcare on to a school environment, we invite your child's new class teacher into our Centre to meet with your child and to speak with their key worker and any designated leads involved with your child's development.
- A TAC (Team Around the Child) meeting will be arranged to give you the opportunity to discuss targets, development, concerns and queries with their current key worker, designated leads from both settings and the new class teacher.
- Wherever possible, ABC Childcare facilitate your child's key worker and designated lead accompanying you and your child to their new school. Here they will help to assess the environment and routine and will to help determine any changes that may be needed to best accommodate the individual needs of your child.