



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The Wharf is a local authority nursery school in Godalming that provides free early years education for children aged 3 to 5. The nursery is accessible to all but gives priority to families with a higher level of need. The Wharf has been educating the young children of Godalming since 1947.



About us ...

- Our professional staff consists of well qualified and experienced teachers and nursery nurses. Staff turnover is low and staff to child ratios are excellent.
- The nursery has places for 48 children at any time. 26 younger children attend part-time session (morning or afternoon) and 22 older children attend full-time. The nursery is very popular and children's names go on our waiting list from age one.

What we do ...

The Wharf's support for families, childminders and other early years settings includes:

- **An outreach service** for parents and children with special educational needs. Our experienced SEN staff visit families and children in their homes, in our 'stay and play' group or at their nursery before they start at The Wharf.
- **'Stay and play' group** for children under 3 with their parents and carers (including childminders). We have 6 sessions a week with the use of our garden and soft play area. We have a session for the younger parent and monthly 'drop in' Health Visitor sessions.
- **A Speech and Language Therapist** working with children with language difficulties one day per week.
- **Parenting Puzzle.** A 10 week nurturing programme for parents that encourages them to enjoy bringing up their children and get the best out of life, led by two local health visitors.
- **Lunch Club.** Children in their last term before school can enjoy a school lunch, learn to try new foods and get used to eating away from home.
- **We support good practice** in local nurseries, playgroups and reception classes by having regular meetings and practical sessions.
- **Toy library.** Families, under 3's and childminders can use our toy library.



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On a daily basis ...

Our children love coming to nursery to enjoy a wide range of activities

- We have an excellent **outdoor play area**. Children spend plenty of time gaining confidence on the wide variety of equipment.
- We really enjoy **'hands on' activities** such as playing with sand, water, paint, clay, cornflour and even shaving foam!
- There are many opportunities for the children to **explore, investigate and discuss** what they see, helping them to develop basic maths and science concepts.
- Our **soft play area** is always popular.

Throughout the year ...

We have a variety of visitors ranging from an 'Artist in Residence' to farm animals from the 'Learning with Livestock' farm. We also like to take the children out on a day trip in the summer term - Alice Holt Forestry Commission Centre has been a popular destination for this.



The Future ...

The Wharf has recently been designated to develop as a 'Children's Centre' and is planning to relocate to a purpose built development where it will be able to expand its portfolio of services to meet the needs of local children and families.



If you want to know more about life at our school...

Please contact:

The Wharf Nursery School
The Wharf
Woolsack Way
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1JG

Telephone: 01483 415220

Email address: office@wharf.surrey.sch.uk

Fax: 01483 417193

Headteacher: Mrs Mandy Heslop