Family-run, loads of fun!
The best possible start

Parents naturally want the best possible start in life for their little ones. It’s what we wanted for our own children and it was our search for the right childcare that led us to establish Little Elms Daycare Nurseries.

At Little Elms, we aim to provide the highest standards of care for children aged between 3 months and 5 years. A family-run business, we believe that a fun and caring environment is crucial to happy and healthy development.

Our experienced and motivated team provides a stimulating yet safe environment for creative play. We take pride in creating a friendly setting in which each child’s physical, emotional and developmental needs are met.

We understand the pressures on busy parents and that’s why we have a simple, all-inclusive monthly fee that covers formula milk, refreshments and meals. As well as full and part-time places, we offer sessional care, allowing you to work flexibly. And, we’re committed to providing you with daily feedback on your child’s experiences, as well as regular updates on their progress.

Our nurseries offer state-of-the-art facilities, combining bright and spacious rooms indoors with fabulous outdoor areas.

At Little Elms, each child is special and is encouraged to achieve their full potential in the precious pre-school years.

Matthew & Spencer Lancaster
Founders of Little Elms Daycare Nurseries
That’s why the emphasis at Little Elms is on fun learning through play. Our thoughtfully designed facilities and fantastic resources provide a wide range of experiential learning opportunities for your child.

The nursery layouts, staffing and activity planning are structured around the different needs of babies (0-2 years), toddlers (2-3 years) and pre-schoolers (3-5 years).

Little Elms Nurseries feature separate rooms for each age group, designed around their developmental needs. The baby rooms allows safe exploration of suitable toys, with cots for nap times and comfy chairs for cuddles. In the toddler rooms, children are able to choose their activities, with plenty of opportunity for messy art, water and sand play. The pre-school room has all the resources needed to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements – but, don’t worry, the emphasis is still very much on having fun!

Friendly Fun

Play is vital to children’s development, helping them to understand the world around them and nurturing their physical, social and emotional skills.
As well as brightly decorated, themed rooms for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, Little Elms has some additional facilities that few nurseries can rival. We have spacious lawns with entertaining garden toys, and semi-covered areas allowing us to undertake outdoor activities – including gardening – whatever the weather. Older children also have supervised access to computers, preparing them for school.

Little Elms Beckenham has a dedicated pushchair store, a lift, wheelchair access, a fully equipped kitchen and a drive-in area for parents dropping off or collecting their children.

Security is taken very seriously, with strict policies in place for your peace of mind. We operate a signing in and out system and children are not allowed to be collected by anyone who is not a nominated person with adequate ID, unless specific arrangements have been made. All nursery visitors – such as prospective parents or maintenance staff – are closely supervised during their stay and are never left unaccompanied with children. During trips off site, the ratio of staff to children is increased and each outing is managed in line with clear safety policies.

Refurbished specifically as a nursery, our splendid Victorian building features a great layout and brilliant resources, both inside and out.
Learning and development

At Little Elms, we want all children in our care to be happy and able to fulfil their potential. We also want to communicate their experiences and progress effectively with parents.

For babies and toddlers we provide toys, resources and adult interaction, offering a diverse range of fun experiences to develop their understanding of the world around them – from messy handprint painting to splashing in puddles with wellies. Staff use daily record sheets to communicate information – such as activities, nappy changes and food eaten – with parents.

Activities for all children are planned to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements:

Communication and language
We enable children to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development
Children are encouraged to be active, interactive and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. They should understand the importance of physical activity and making healthy food choices.

Personal, social and emotional development
We help children to develop a positive sense of themselves and confidence in their own abilities; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to build social skills and manage their feelings; and to understand appropriate behaviour.

Literacy
We help children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. They access a wide range of reading materials – books, poems, and other items – to spark interest.

Mathematics
We provide children with opportunities to develop their skills in counting; understanding and using numbers; doing simple calculations; and describing shapes and measures.

Understanding the world
Children are guided to make sense of their physical world through opportunities to observe and explore places, people, technology and environment.

Expressive arts and design
We enable children to explore a wide range of media and materials, and encourage them to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through various activities in art, music, dance, role-play, and design technology.
Food, glorious food!

For young children, the importance of eating well cannot be emphasised enough. The food habits that they develop can stay with them for years, so it’s vitally important to introduce sound routines from the very beginning.

Children under five years of age experience rapid growth, with their bones, teeth and major organs still developing. The food they eat affects not only this growth but also their mood, behaviour and ability to concentrate.

At Little Elms, each meal is carefully planned and freshly prepared by our trained chef, using only the best, locally sourced ingredients – organic where possible – to ensure a balanced and nutritious diet. Meal times are happy occasions, with children encouraged to be sociable. Although we help your little ones to learn table manners and eat tidily, it all takes time and we don’t mind a bit of mess! We also use the herbs and produce grown by the children in the garden, encouraging them to try new tastes and textures.

If your child has special dietary needs – such as having a food intolerance or requiring a vegetarian menu – we will be happy to accommodate them.

High quality staff

The quality of our staff is a crucial factor in providing the best possible childcare – that’s why we’ve developed the Little Elms Training Academy.

We employ only experienced and qualified nursery staff, all of whom undergo a rigorous induction programme and regular appraisals. Each member of our team is given a personal career development plan, with training provided through our in-house academy.

Our team is committed to helping your children to enjoy themselves, as well as to grow in ability and confidence. Each child is assigned a key worker who is responsible for the emotional wellbeing and learning of a small group of children. This system allows the key worker to understand each child’s individual needs and to build a special relationship with them. The key worker will usually be the one to feed, change and comfort your little one, giving them a sense of security, which is especially important during the settling in period. As this member of staff will be responsible for making and recording observations of your child each day, you will have one key point of contact, ensuring consistent communication about your child’s experiences and progress at Little Elms.
We know that juggling work-life balance is difficult for parents, so our aim is to make childcare as simple as possible.

Little Elms is open from 7.30am until 6.00pm every weekday, except Bank Holidays. Subject to availability, we offer full-time, part-time and sessional childcare, allowing you to work flexibly around your family’s needs.

To make life easier, we charge a single, fully inclusive monthly fee to cover formula milk, meals, snacks and drinks. There are no hidden extras.

We’re happy to accept Childcare Vouchers, offered by some employers to help their staff with childcare costs, and don’t forget that you may well be eligible for financial help from the Government through Child Tax Credit and possibly Working Tax Credit.
Come and visit
To find out about childcare at Little Elms, view our facilities and meet our staff, please telephone or e-mail to make an appointment with one of our Nursery Managers.

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