

The most  
important  
First Step for  
your child...

...inspiring and enabling children to reach  
their true potential from an early age



FIRST STEPS NURSERY AT FROEBELIAN, 173 NEW ROAD SIDE,  
HORSFORTH, LEEDS, LS18 4DR





“Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child’s soul.”

**Friedrich Froebel**

## Contents

- A warm welcome
- First Steps - Who are we?
- Our philosophy - What we do
- Learning in the Babyrooms
- Learning in the Foundation Unit
- Healthy diet, happy child
- The key worker system
- Enabling environments
- At a glance

## A warm welcome

Welcome to the First Steps Nursery at Froebelian - a new nursery, from the prestigious Froebelian School in Horsforth.

**Our aim is to provide nurturing childcare of the highest quality for children aged 3 months to 5 years.**

Our staff team are hand-picked for their passion and experience in early years. Our equipment and resources are purposely designed with advice from renowned early years specialists to create an enabling learning environment.

At our nursery, children can learn, play and develop to their full potential whilst having fun! We focus on children's individual interests and needs when planning our day, closely monitoring and assessing children's learning and development. We ensure that the activities we plan build children's confidence and independence setting them up for life beyond the nursery.

We have very close links with The Froebelian School and children attending the nursery will have preferential entry into the school's Lower Kindergarten class.

We are very proud of our new nursery and look forward to showing you all of the wonderful things that we do.

*Rachel Burton*

Miss R. Burton  
Head of Nursery



## A message from the Headteacher of The Froebelian School

The Froebelian School in Horsforth is a thriving and dynamic independent prep school which places children at the very heart of all it strives to achieve. We seek to equip our children with a lifelong thirst for learning and the school continually achieves impressive levels of academic success, preparing our children for the next stage in their educational journey.

Our children are bright, inquisitive individuals and we endeavour to cater for their unique abilities, interests and aspirations. This enables us to develop the whole child and we work hard to build solid foundations which balance both the co-curricular and academic spheres of school life and honour our school motto - "Giving a flying start to the citizens of tomorrow."

Catering for 190 pupils between the ages of 3 and 11, we set the highest standards and expectations and The Froebelian School is acknowledged as the one of the North's leading independent prep schools. We have been placed consistently as the highest ranked school in the area in the prestigious Sunday Times Parent Power Survey.

We are delighted that we can now offer a year-round nursery, First Steps, which will follow the school's ethos closely and offer younger children the opportunity to start realising their full potential at an earlier age.

A prospectus can only give a flavour of what a school is really like so I encourage you to come and visit us. I look forward to meeting you and showing you our excellent school and nursery in action.

*Catherine Dodds*

Catherine Dodds  
Headteacher - Froebelian School



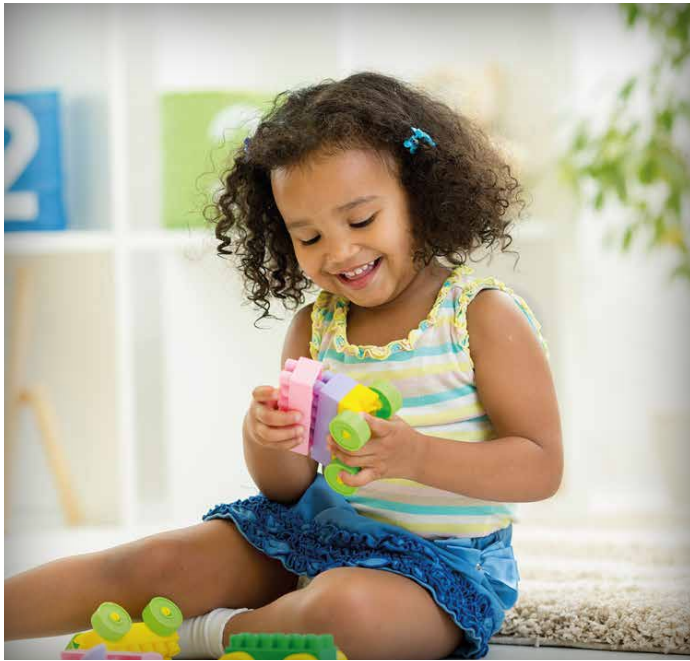
## Who are we?

We are a private day nursery based right in the heart of Horsforth, conveniently close to the A65, the Leeds Ring Road and The Froebelian School. We welcome applications from all children aged 3 months to 5 years.

We are open from 7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year.

The nursery ethos is driven by Miss Burton who is very experienced in the early years sector, including time as a fully qualified teacher and an Ofsted inspector. This, along with the support from the highly renowned Froebelian School, sets our nursery apart from the rest.





## Our philosophy – what we do

It is the nursery's aspiration to uphold The Froebelian School's aims and traditions of **"giving a flying start to the citizens of tomorrow"**.

Our mission is all about inspiring and enabling young children to reach their true potential through education and play. We still follow some of the concepts of Friedrich Froebel the German educator, who created the concept of kindergarten and from whom the school and nursery take their name. His theories were all gained from viewing life through a child's eye and the idea of "creative play", something which we still aim to do.

We have a distinct educational philosophy, which sets us apart from many other nurseries. But where we differ, is that we subtly blend play and fun with process based learning.

Many of our activities are designed to create opportunities and invitations to learn, both in individual and group situations. It is our intention to ensure that children leaving First Steps have been nurtured to give them a confident head start at school, whether it be at Froebelian or elsewhere.



## Learning in the Babyrooms

As well as learning through active play, much of our under-2s' learning stems from their drive to investigate their surroundings with all their senses. This includes fun with water, sand and other malleable materials. Floor easels support early mark-making and finger painting, which are large-motor and sensory experiences at this age.

Block play is important for young children's cognitive development. Their minds start to process concepts like gravity, shape and symmetry years before they learn such terms.

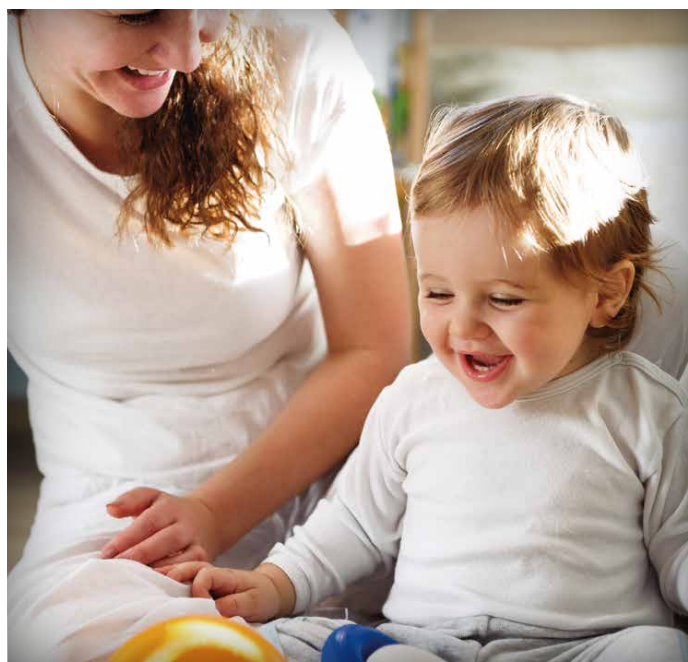
Treasure baskets nurture curiosity and learning. The sort of manipulative actions typically seen during treasure basket play may be linked to a complex process of rule acquisition, categorisation and developing mental files rather than simply exploration per se.

Heuristic play too is based on natural curiosity (heuristic means 'to find out'). As babies grow, they move beyond just feeling and pondering things, to wanting to find out what can be done with them!

Toddlers have an urge to manipulate objects and use them in combination, so practitioners collect a large supply of tins and lots of natural and found items for them to explore.

Because these materials are free of detail, children's imaginations flourish. A child using a cardboard tube as trumpet, for instance, is demonstrating an active imagination. Einstein said 'Imagination is more important than knowledge'. Not only does imagination add a rich dimension to children's lives, it is also key to understanding the feelings of others.

A babyroom wouldn't be quite right without an abundance of nursery rhymes and singing. Whether in groups or during routines such as nappy changing we embrace every opportunity to develop our rhythm and vocabulary through a good song.





## Learning in the Foundation Unit

### Movement

Children need to move. Body and brain develop together, and physical development occurs through using the body, moving it in space and gravity.

We understand the importance of physical activity and have the space and resources to allow this to be realised.

### Curiosity

Children are naturally eager to learn about the world and everything in it.

When their interest is engaged, they push the boundaries of their knowledge, hungry for more. We tune in to each individual child's curiosity and nurture it.

### Imagination

Imagination's significance cannot be overstated as children are the world's future inventors, scientists, writers, thinkers and leaders.

Imagination enables 'possibility thinking' which is essential for innovation. It opens new realms and is actively encouraged and facilitated at First Steps.



## Learning in the Foundation Unit

### Creativity

Creativity is central to a child's approach to life and learning. We make sure children have the freedom to experiment boldly, nurturing their confidence to create.

### Hands-on experience

We find hands on experience is a great way to learn.

Whether imparting maths through cookery – or counting through music and play we find we are rewarded by the children's enthusiasm.

### Play

Play is a child's chief mode of developing a disposition for learning. It is how they most readily formulate and communicate ideas.

A large part of the day is devoted to play as a vehicle for ensuring their education and their development. Play builds language skills as children share ideas, plan, discuss and negotiate.

Children's capacity for learning is boundless when you inspire their imagination.







## Healthy diet, happy child

Offering a varied diet encourages children to experience and enjoy new flavours and textures, giving them the confidence they need to try new things.

Healthy eating is not just about what we put on the plate. We believe it is about educating children and giving them the knowledge and independence to make healthy choices that will set them up for their future.

All meals at First Steps are designed specifically to meet the nutritional needs of children under the age of five years.

Breakfast is a choice of cereals, toast and fruit. Lunch is a well-balanced, nutritious hot meal, with a vegetarian choice and a pudding. Tea is a high tea, which provides children with a light snack.

Meal times are a very special teaching and social time. A family atmosphere prevails, where table manners and etiquette are paramount. All children share a snack of fresh fruit and milk, throughout the day. Water is always available and children are encouraged to drink regularly.



## Enabling environments

At First Steps we have developed environments which support 'school-readiness' – we strive to produce active learners, eager for new challenges with a 'can do' attitude.

Quality resources and equipment promote all areas of the curriculum, including mathematics and literacy and as a result children are confident and ready for the next step in their educational journey.

Your pre-school child will be refining all the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout their time at First Steps.

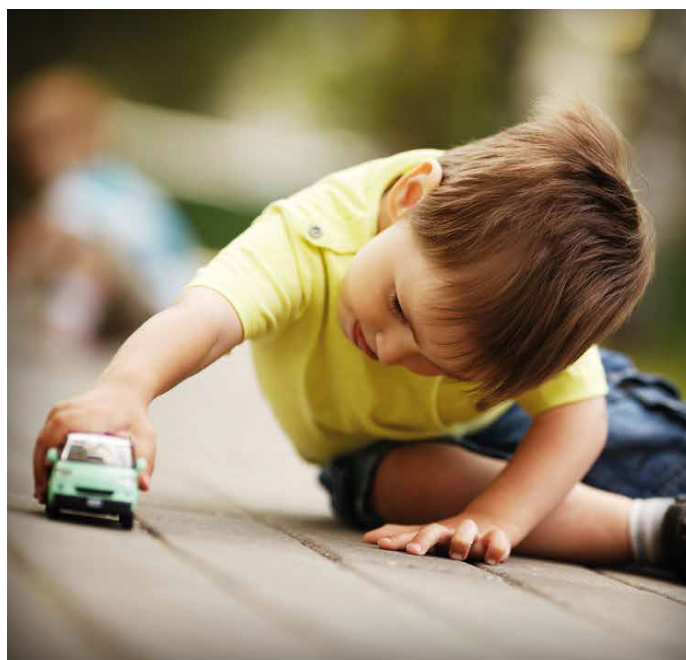
### Outdoor play actively supports early reading and writing

Access to the outdoors is essential for healthy development in the Early Years. Studies show that it is necessary to have access to outdoor physical play to support early reading and writing.

It also has a positive impact on children's overall health and well being and encourages children to gain a greater understanding of the natural world.

#### First Steps is committed to providing stimulating outdoor environments by:

- Utilising all kinds of natural materials, providing children with an excellent platform for early years education and discovery
- Developing areas to plant, grow and harvest
- Creating areas for reading, mark making, creative art and role play
- Encouraging physical challenge and development





## The key worker system

The nursery operates a key worker system, which means that each child has one member of staff who takes a special interest in and responsibility for that child. This practitioner is also responsible for building close links with you as parents and making sure that you have information about your child's needs, development and activities at nursery.

This system ensures that each child receives the individual care and attention they need and that observation of their progress is regular and continuous.

We use the latest technology to make observations and assessments of your child and these can be shared with you throughout the day to allow you to see what your child has been learning. It also presents opportunities for you as parents to share with the nursery the exciting things you do at home.





“Children must be taught how to think,  
not *what* to think.”

Margaret Mead

## First Steps - at a glance

- Open 51 weeks of the year, Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm
- A distinct educational ethos that builds and extends all capabilities for each child
- Close links to The Froebelian School with preferential entry at 3+ to the Lower Kindergarten class
- Purpose designed interiors with advice from renowned early years specialists
- Food freshly prepared on-site by our professional nursery catering team
- Ideally located in the heart of Horsforth with excellent transport links to Leeds & Bradford

## Next steps...

For all enquiries, please call:

**0113 258 8933**

or email:

**firststeps@froebelian.co.uk**

