

Welcome to our nursery,  
we are really looking  
forward to meeting you.

Nurture



Achieving



Outdoors



Responsive

### **Welcome to our nursery:**

We are so pleased that you will soon be coming to our nursery, we have met with your family and are looking forward to meeting you. You may have already visited us once or twice to see the nursery and meet your new friends, but if not, this will help you get ready for your first day.

We have lots of fun at nursery and you will make lots of new friends and learn lots of interesting things as well as taking part on trips and outings not only on the farm but in the minibus to places like the beach, park and to neighbouring estates like Cambo to see the piglets.

### **When you come to nursery:**

We have two rooms in the nursery, we have a room for the littlest children (seeds) which is for when you are up to 3 years old, they are in the downstairs room and the staff work hard to ensure that they have great fun. This group of children sleep outdoors no matter the weather and really enjoy the deep sleeps they have. When they are awake the little children take part in lots of learning activities as well as sensory play with water and sand-based play which is a popular one in this room.

The other room in the nursery is for 3-5-year-old children (oaks), this room is in the upstairs area of the nursery and is a bigger room. The room is full of lots of fun resources that will help you play and learn with your new friends. Lots of children in this room have been seeds and have moved to the room when they became three years old. Children stay with us right through up to when they go to school. You may end up going to a different school from your friends at nursery, but we hope that you will remain friends even if you do go to different schools.

The nursery has a great big garden with lots of fun, learning activities and lots of grassy areas to run about on and to roll about on (this seems to be a favourite at times) on hot days we have been known to get the sprinkler system out for children to cool off in the summer sun. Hope you do not mind getting wet.

Just next to the nursery we have the farm, George is the farmer and is very friendly. The big blue barn has been full of sheep and as spring progressed, more and more lambs. The children go and visit the barn to count the new lambs and George has allowed us to feed the lambs. They can be super hungry.

Not far from the nursery there is a field that has alpacas in it, the children love to go and visit them. This year there have been a few baby alpacas born. While they can be a little shy, they are super fluffy.

We are lucky up at Kinaldy to have such great spaces available to us. We have two main forest areas that we use throughout the week. The oaks room and the seeds room will

spend a whole day at the forest, including having lunch cooked / finished off on the campfire. When the seeds spend the day in the forest, they sleep in the forest too.

Our other forest area is just at the entrance to the nursery track and can be a bit of a trek. We have established a path in this forest area that leads down to the burn. This is great fun for playing pooh sticks or for splashing in the burn.

### **Snacks and lunchtime:**

We are lucky at Acorn Day Nursery to have our own cook, Rachel Morton provides lots of tasty snacks and lunch for us, as well as the odd birthday cake when we have special celebrations.

If you have any special dietary or cultural requirements Rachel is happy to discuss these with your parents before you start at nursery. Nothing is too much trouble.

### **What to bring with you to nursery?**

We spend lots of time outdoors exploring the countryside or playing in the garden, so warm clothes are important to keep you cosy. We recommend that your parents pack lots of layers for you.

While we love to see all your lovely clothes, you will most probably get mucky and wet throughout the day so keep your lovely clothes for at home or when you are out with your friends.

We have lots of spare clothes at the nursery if you are super good at getting mucky or wet, so not to worry, you can borrow from us.

### **We have lots of staff:**

Acorn day nursery is set up into two rooms that have lots of staff working everyday to make sure you have a great play and learning experience.

We have a small team of staff who support all the work of the nursery in the background. Just to make sure that everything goes smoothly, lets have a look at the staff team:



Nursery manager: Scott McClymont. He works in the office but will spend lots of time in the nursery rooms and in the garden with the children or driving the minibus. This means he needs to take work home or work evenings. But he does not mind.



HR / Administrator: Shannen Thomassen works to make sure that everything that needs to happen does, Shannen organises all the administration side of the nursery and the invoicing for parents. Shannen's daughter attends the nursery and loves it.



Cook: Rachel Morton, we have already written about. Rachel will work with your keyworker and your parents are more than welcome to meet with Rachel to talk about your dietary requirements. Rachel makes sure we have great food at the right times of the day. Not sure how she manages it all?

### **Seeds Room Staff (under 3 years old)**

Our seeds room takes up part of the bottom floor of the nursery. You can come to nursery even when you are a baby, we have lots of staff in this room to help you play and learn and as you grow and develop.





Early Years Officer: Pauline Smith has worked with us for lots of years now, Pauline has worked across both rooms, but is currently working in the seeds room. Pauline loves to be well organised and will always be seen outdoors with the children or taking part in messy play, the messier the better.



Early Years Officer: Emma Rugg has been with us for several years; Emma works hard to ensure we have a caring and nurturing environment for the children in the seeds room. If ever a child needs a cuddle or a quiet settle in, then Emma will make sure this happens.



Early Years Officer: Megan Donnison came to Acorn nearly two years ago straight from college. Megan works hard for the children in the nursery and has a nice approach to her work. Megan always wants to try out new ideas and is always thinking of good play and learning ideas. Megan has a great approach to new start children in the nursery and will work hard with staff and parents to ensure we get this process right.



Early Years Officer: Josie Graham has worked at Acorn for coming up to a year, Josie completed her training at a neighbouring nursery and started with us the day we returned from the first lockdown. Josie never stops and works hard for the children we have in the room. She has a welcoming nature and is very creative. She has a firm but fair approach to her practice and is super organised which the children really respond to.



Early Years Officer: Emmy Gates chose our nursery as a parent and liked it so much that she now works with us. Emmy is a qualified nurse and is loving working at Acorn. She has really got to know the children in the time she has been with us and cannot believe that she gets paid to have as much fun as she does with the children. Emmy loves the outdoor spaces we have and making sure the children make the best of them.



Early Years Officer: Lindsay Moncrieff is our newest recruit to the nursery. Lindsay comes to us to undertake her training as an early Years Officer. Lindsay has a quiet manner but is really beginning to find her feet and is great and getting down on the ground with the little ones making sure they are having lots of fun.

### Oaks Room Staff (3-5-year-olds)

The oaks room is in the upstairs part of the nursery taking up the whole of this floor, apart from the sensory room. The room is set up into lots of different areas with lots of great resources to play and learning with. Our oaks staff are on hand to help you have lots of fun in the oaks room.



Room Manager Oaks Room: Rhona Duncan oversees the oaks room. Rhona worked in the seeds room earlier on in the year. Rhona organises all the children and staff making sure there is lots of great learning opportunities indoors and outdoors. Rhona's daughter attends Acorn Day Nursery and has been a seed and is now an oak but is soon to move onto primary school.



Early Years Officer: Maggie Batten has worked with Acorn for lots of years, if we do not know the answer to something we ask Maggie, and she will tell us a story about something that used to happen in the past at Acorn. Maggie has a kind approach to her which the children love. She is quite creative in her practice and will always come up with a good idea to help enhance the children's play and learning.



Early Years Officer: Suzanne Methven works in the oaks room and is a bolt of energy to the room. Suzanne will get a project going and will make sure all the children contribute to this. Suzanne is quite creative in her practice and will make sure that the children use the local area as much as possible.





Early Years Officer: Karne Collin is our grower, Karne makes sure that the children are involved in growing our produce for the nursery. She will support the children from planting seeds right through to harvest and eating, following that life cycle from start to finish. Karne offers support to our children who need a little bit of assistance and will be the nursery contact between home, and other professionals as the children develop and transition on to primary school.



Early Years Officer: Carol-Anne Kerins started working in the seeds room, however we have lots of children moving to the oaks room, so Carol-Anne has moved to the oaks room to support this move. Carol-Anne loves being outdoors with the children and does not mind what weather we have at Kinaldy, she will have a group outside playing and learning together.



Early Years Officer: Marc Davidson joined us after the October holidays 2020 and has fitted in like he has been with us for years. Marc is one of our trainees but has had more time in the nursery so far than Lindsay has. The children have really taken to Marc as a male in an ELC setting is a rarity, but it is not just that, Marc's practice, and enthusiasm for the work that we do has really engaged the children in their play and learning.





Yolanda Vico-Tienda joined us from an outdoor nursery along the road from us. Yolanda is Spanish and brings that flair to the nursery. As a qualified primary school teacher, she has a wealth of knowledge about children's learning and how to promote this in an outdoors setting. The children are really enjoying the way Yolanda works and learning Spanish words from her.

### Our relief staff:

We like to use our relief staff lots, it means that they get to know the children and the staff as well as making their time at Acorn Day Nursery meaningful. Plus, we are so busy just now that we need our relief staff to help care for all the children we work with.



Early Years Officer: Abbie Bell joined us after lockdown number two which was a strange time as Abbie visited us for a meeting when the nursery was only providing ELC for keyworker children. Abbie works across both rooms of the nursery and has really developed her practice as she has got to know the children and staff. Abbie works hard and has a really nice manner to her. Abbie has one more year to complete of her training and she will be a qualified Early Years Officer.



Early Years Officer: Sarah O'Donnell began working with us in March, her sister worked for us a few years ago. Sarah Has just completed her HND in additional support needs and is starting her degree in September. Sarah works across both rooms of the nursery and has a lovely calm manner that the children respond well to.

## What do the rooms look like?

### Seeds Room:



## Oaks Room:

Child-  
Centred



Outdoors



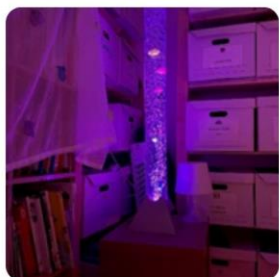
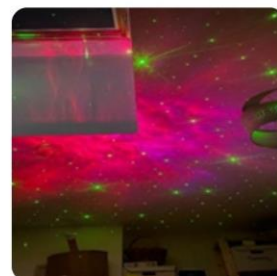
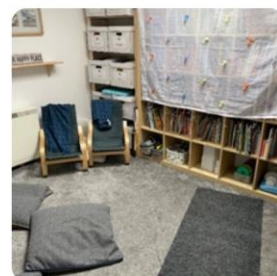
Nurtured



Responsive



Our Sensory Room, with some of our amazing lighting:



## Our Nursery Garden:





## Out and about at Kinaldy:

