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Little Beans Boutique Nursery Balham

Part of the Lucky Beans Childcare Family

1 LEARNING

Circle Time – we use singing and finger rhymes to develop children's vocabulary.

Free Play – with nudging and encouragement, this allows the children to explore their own interests and instincts.

Messy Play – working with water, cornflower etc. and discovering textures and shapes.

Story Time – by following along with the pictures they begin to grasp the fun of written words.

Phonics Lessons – we offer phonics lessons to all children in order to help develop their speaking and pronunciation.

2 NURTURING

Caring For Others – we put a great emphasis on learning to appreciate other people, their space, wants and needs, through play and example.

Gardening – tending to plants helps inculcate a gentle nature.

Arts & Crafts and Musical Instruments – by giving children encouragement to develop their artistic side and to have fun and be messy we nurture the soul as well as the mind.

3 LIFE SKILLS

Cooking – learning to associate healthy cooking with pleasure early stands children in very good stead later on in terms of their health.

Books Everywhere – the love of reading is probably the most valuable life skill a child can have, and it all starts with associating simple books with fun stories.

Sport – games in the garden and the park help them learn to cooperate with others and to keep active.

We love the outdoors!

We have frequent trips to the nearby common and strongly emphasise outdoor play in our day-to-day routines.

The importance of sport

We encourage our little beans to try team and individual sport in order to help them develop important skills.

Nutrition Focused

Do you have any specific dietary requirements? We cater for all dietary needs!

“A Nursery with a difference”

Why choose us? Let’s look at our core values that guide us at all of our settings…

We have a childcare philosophy that incorporates the full EYFS curriculum, but which is about much more than box ticking – it’s about being outdoors, playing sport and creating a home from home that makes children feel happy and safe.

Our fully trained staff look after children from 0 months to 30 months, 7:30am-6:30pm Monday-Friday, minimum 10 hours a day – our intake is small so there are always plenty of us to go round.

The Lucky Beans vision

Forest School isn't just for toddlers. Babies with us are fully involved in the outdoor learning and development and have their own special baby forest school carers to help them get the most from their natural curiosity in nature.

At Little Beans Boutique Nursery, we fully embrace the Forest School movement, but not completely at the expense of other ways of learning, so we strike a balance and make the most of a variety of opportunities for learning and development. This means we also spend some time at our base, doing music, reading stories, singing, dancing, arts and crafts and so much more. We look forward to welcoming you to our happy family.

Vision

Our Lucky Beans family vision is of happy, curious, nurtured, and well-rounded children who gain valuable life-skills and education particularly from the natural world. Learning in a positive strengths-focused environment, who make the transition to school easily and who go on to make a positive contribution to society.

Mission

To promote happiness, learning and life-skills in the very highest quality childcare settings led by exceptional staff and with a focus on learning from nature.

Our strengths-based approach allows us to identify what works for each child. This positive method, grounded in educational psychology, helps ensure tailored care and happy children.

We love being outdoors!

At all Lucky Beans settings being outside and learning and developing in nature is hugely important. We spend as much time as possible outside playing, doing activities and sports of all kinds to promote a healthy lifestyle and to help children develop their natural curiosity, independence, and resilience, along with a knowledge of nature's rhythms.

Meet the Little Beans Boutique Family!

The Lucky Beans family was founded by Caroline Curtis in 2016 when she started child minding from her own home, with clear vision of providing excellent care, positive parenting, and strengths-based methods for nurturing children and enabling them to thrive, gain life-skills and be happy. Such was the success of Lucky Beans that Caroline was able to grow and extend her childcare services from the original setting of her home to Growing Beans Streatham nursery and pre-school catering for children from 3 months right up to 5 years.

Here at Little Beans, your child will spend plenty of time outdoors as we strive to create curious and adventurous children, making the most of learning from the outside world by studying natural flora and fauna, messy and creative play, and planting and tending vegetables as much as possible.

The staff at Little Beans that your children will have the most interaction with consist of our lovely housekeeper and the care team, a lovely group of people, all OFSTED registered and First Aid trained, who will create a home-from home for your little ones. Now meet some more of our family…

Caroline Curtis
Founder and Director

I am an OFSTED approved child minder, psychologist, and mother to four sons aged between 4 and 21. I have always been a mum with a career, so I understand the strains of balancing home and work life. I believe in developing the skills laid down by the EYFS but also in enriching children's lives with music, cooking, gardening, arts & crafts, and sport.

Saira Kashif
Area Manager

I am the area manager and for all the Lucky Beans sites. I work vigorously to ensure all of our nurseries are up to the highest standard. I consider myself bilingual, warm, compassionate, and adventurous. I truly love to care for children - I cannot wait to help them explore learn and develop whilst expanding their imaginations.

Seema

Little Beans Boutique Nursery Manager

My role along with the team at Little Beans Boutique is to assist your child on their learning journey, giving them the freedom to explore and develop in a warm, caring, and natural environment. I have lots of experience of working with children and I am very excited to share my experiences with our Little Beans children and parents. I want you involved in how we care for your little ones here at Little Beans Boutique Nursery!

Zanjabil

Deputy Manager

I have work with little ones for a long time. I am very friendly, hardworking, and caring. I'll do my best to ensure your child's development always comes first.

Marika

Third in Charge

I have several years of experience in childcare and I am looking to make this my career. I also have BA Hons in Early Years studies.

Little Beans Boutique Nursery

Reading area

All the children at Lucky Beans Childcare can relax in a comfy bean bag and read a range of children's books in the reading area in our nursery. Whether it's independent reading or group story time, the relaxing settings and lively staff will make any book seem like an adventure. We also challenge children to read independently helping to build their reading and

Inside Play Area

This is the main area of the nursery where the children play, do activities, and have their meals and snacks. This is where group activities with the children take place. We do all our circle time, messy play, free play, and story time here.

Outside Play Area

We have a big open garden in the nursery. We believe children should run wild with their imagination, so it was only right to have a big enough garden for the children to allow them to run around and venture.

A typical baby day? There's no such thing!

Our babies have so much fun! We know that babies and toddlers have different needs, so we always ensure everything is tailored specifically to your child's needs.

As part of our Forest School ethos, outdoor learning is a large part of our development plan which we implement by getting children outside every day either to the park or for a walk in the buggy. Care at Little Beans is holistic so we also spend lots of time reading stories, playing music and singing songs with our babies. There are lots more planned activities and games on offer, we follow different themes each month and do a wide range of arts and grafts, sports, outdoor games and so much more.

We believe that an important life-skill for children is teaching them to nurture other living things, so we grow lots of things like fruits, herbs, and vegetables to use in our cooking.

We go the extra mile: Every baby in our care is allocated one to one time each day with a staff member, to really help them develop. We also make sure that nap time is built into our days, so that babies can get the essential rest they need in our lovely quiet room. We follow positive parenting methods and focus on your baby's strengths. You can trust us to care for your child in the same way we care for our own.

A day in the life of a Lucky Beans Baby:

7:30 – 8.30	Breakfast and nappy changing	1.30 – 2.00	Wake up & Nappy change
8.30 – 9.15	Singing songs / Reading stories	2:00 – 3:00	Spanish/Messy play/One-on-one Activities
9.15 - 9.30	Nappy change / Nap time for some	3.00 – 3.30	Free Play and nappy change
9.30 – 10.00	Morning snack time	3:30 – 4.00	Tea time
10.00 – 11.15	Outdoor Time (Park, games, baby groups, visits to the Library)	4.00 – 5.00	Outdoor time
11.15 – 11.30	Nappy change	5.00 – 5.30	Free play/Kitchen play (baking etc.)
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch	5.30 - 6.00	Snack time / Nappy change
12:00 - 1:30	Nap time	6:00 - 6:30	Free play & Home time

What do we eat?

We provide well balanced nutritious menus; meals are prepared on a daily basis including their five portions of fruit and veg every day. We do not serve any sweet or fizzy drinks; fresh water will be provided for children all the time.

Wherever possible individual needs such as religious, special dietary requirements or allergies will be catered for.

We also offer healthy snacks like fresh fruit, so that your child always has enough energy to learn, explore and grow. It also lays the foundations of healthy eating habits for life. If your child is weaning, don't worry – we will work with you on this.

Our little helpers often get involved in preparing their own food by helping to mix and measuring out ingredients, but they don't go near anything sharp or hot!

Sample menu:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Ready Brek & Milk, Toast, Yoghurt, or fruit D O W	Weetabix& Milk, Pancakes, Fruit Puree D O W	Cornflakes & Milk, Toast, Banana D O W	Weetabix & Milk, Pancakes, Yoghurt D O E W B	Rice Krispies & Milk, Toast, Fruit Puree D O E W B
Snack	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B
Lunch	Spaghetti Bolognese with cheese and vegetable sticks D T Fruit and yogurt D	Thai Chicken Curry with rice and vegetable sticks Fruit and yogurt D	Salmon with mashed sweet potato/sweet potato fries and green beans. D F Fruit and yogurt D	Jacket potato with Beans and cheese D Fruit and yogurt D F	Homemade turkey meatballs with mashed potato and vegetables D T E Fruit and yogurt D
Snack	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B	(Some of) Fruit, Biscuits, Organix Goodies/ finger food, Ricecakes, Croissants D O E W B
Supper	Crustless quiche and vegetable sticks D T Fruit	Tomato/ pesto pasta with cheese and salad D T Fruit	Chicken stew with rice and broccoli Fruit	Shepherds pie with vegetables D T Fruit	Roast chicken with vegetables Fruit

Your child's development…

The EYFS – what is it and what does it mean in practice?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5 years old. Every aspect of Little Beans has been designed with this framework in mind to stimulate the minds of our children using the best of traditional nursery techniques and forest school innovation. Little Beans makes no distinction between learning and play, and our nursery team are trained to use children's play as a means of developing them in all areas of the EYFS.

We need to:

1) Recognise each child is unique and requires observation to understand how best to help their development.
2) Give the child positive relationships to develop self-confidence, independence and to help them learn what acceptable behaviour is.
3) Provide enabling environments rich in objects and people that stimulate their imaginations and support them in taking risks within well managed, safe settings.

We support these guidelines wholeheartedly and our staff have undergone numerous training courses (including forest school training) to ensure that our nursery does all of these things for your child. Little Beans celebrate all cultural festivals during the year to create a feeling of a wider community. We also ask parents who are interested to come to the nursery to take part in multicultural activities share their own culture and tradition with our Little Beans family, so that we are supporting each other in creating healthy, happy and flourishing children. You can find a copy of Development Matters, which explains the EYFS in greater detail at:
www.foundationyears.co.uk

Parents as our partners: How can I be involved?

This all sounds great, but isn't there more to a healthy, happy child?

Yes, there is! The EYFS is a great start but with us, your child will be loved, guided, and have all the encouragement and moral support they need to take risks and grow in a safe, supporting and caring home from home nursery environment and on exciting outdoor adventures.

Each month we have a different theme, and this gives the children a greater interest in the wider world and keeps our learning fresh, fun and exciting for them.

We know that looking after your child is a partnership between us and you, the parents. We know that you want to know how your child is getting on and what they are doing – these are some of the ways we involve parents:

My Learning Story folder
Every child gets a folder with pictures that documents their progress and the things they enjoy. You'll be able to see exactly what your child has been up to whilst in our care.

Get togethers
We hold casual get togethers in summer and winter so that you can get to know us all better and meet other parents.

Parent's WhatsApp
We create a group for each child's parents so that our staff can share images and videos every day showing what your child is up to. It's lovely to actually be able to see how much fun they are having.

Regular catch-up meetings
We arrange regular meetings to review your child's progress and check that we are all happy – especially your child. You can always catch up informally with staff at drop-off and pick-up times too.

What do the parents say about Lucky Beans?

Our parents are our best marketeers, hear what they think in their own words

all names have been taken out

“Caroline and the team are very supportive of the parents and I feel so lucky that when I am back at work, I know my daughter is well cared for, happy and learning more than she would do with just me. “

“Caroline and her team at Lucky Beans completely came to our rescue when we decided to have a last-minute change in childcare plans. From the start, everyone has been warm, welcoming, and extremely caring and our daughter is so happy to be there. Wonderful setting, excellent team and great facilities. Couldn't be happier and delighted to have our daughter at Lucky Beans.”

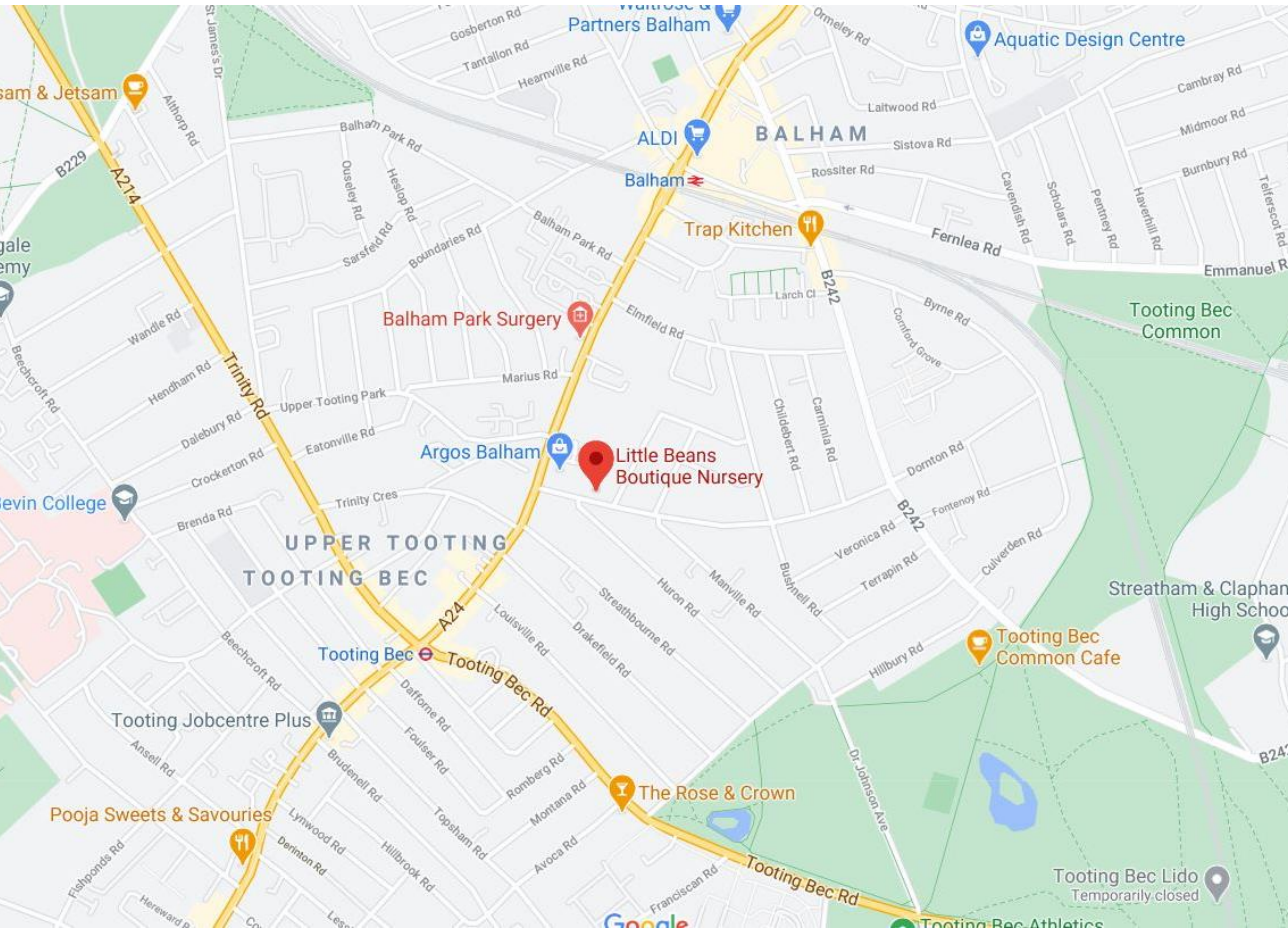
“We have now seen our daughter develop from a happy and content baby into a very capable and determined little toddler. We believe this is down to all the varied activities and games the children at Lucky Beans get to experience, including painting, music, reading and most of all, getting as much fresh air and running around together as possible. We feel very fortunate we are part of the Lucky Beans family and would recommend it to anyone.”

“We are always being complimented on our son's language development, manners and good eating habits and feel that this is in no small part due to the environment that Caroline provides. We hope to continue our association with Lucky Beans for many years to come, we simply couldn't be happier.”

“The Lucky Beans environment feels more like a loving family and I know that my son is happy there and the team all care for him. He also gets great development there.”

“We both have busy jobs and [child] is often the first to arrive and the last to leave, but this is made so much easier by knowing that he is safe, happy and much loved at Lucky Beans.”

Where are we located?



We are located at:

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Tel: 07885274046
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We can’t wait to meet you and your family!

All illustrations by Sophie Glover.

Notes…