

Brudenell Road - Tooting
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Little Beans Tooting

Part of the Lucky Beans Childcare Family



Credit: Sophie Glover

Nutrition is important to us

We cater for vegans, vegetarians and children with other dietary requirements. Just ask!

We love the outdoors.

We have frequent trips to the nearby common and strongly emphasize outdoor play - promoting a healthy lifestyle, curiosity and resilience from an early age.

The rigors of sport

We encourage our little beans to try and learn the values of teams and individual sports in order to help them develop.

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

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.

"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 3 months to 5 years old, 7:30am-6:30pm Monday-Friday, minimum 10 hours a day (We are flexible about these timings) – our intake is small so there are always plenty of us to go round.**

****We offer 15 and 30 hours funded care****

The Lucky Beans Vision



Babies and toddlers with us are fully involved in 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 Tooting 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 time 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 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**; our nursery and pre-school catering for children from 3 months right up to 5 years.

Here at Growing 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 Growing 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 1st 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.



Megan Power-Rice: Head of Operations

I operate behind the scenes here at Lucky Beans and my job is to make sure everything runs smoothly for you. From making sure your paperwork is in order to keeping records of your child's achievements and preparing your monthly invoices I'll be working with you to make your admin as easy as possible.



Cimon Ramadan: Little Beans Manager

My role along with the team at Little Beans Tooting 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!



Milo: Barketing Manager

I am 13 years old and have no teeth (don't forget to brush yours!). I love meeting new people and am very friendly. Animals are great for young children – they're on the same wavelength! I love helping them to learn compassion and nurturing and while I won't be actually at the nursery – I might join you for a game in the park.



Rhoda Recordaba: Assistant

I have been with Lucky Beans for a long time, originally working at Caroline's house.



Natalia Zwolinska: Assistant

I have several years of experience in childcare and I am looking forward to making this my career.

Cherish Everyday

Our little ones 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 Growing 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 crafts, 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 free play	1.30–2.30	Free play (Arts and Crafts, puzzles, sand, construction, water, sensory play. (some naps)
8:30–9:00	Circle time/group time	2:30–3:00	Afternoon snack time
9:00–10:00	(Free flow) Children's choice of activities/ Naps if needed	3:00–4:30	Library (Thurs), Adventure Box (Thurs), Spanish (Tues)
10:00–10:30	Morning snack time	4:30–5:00	Teatime
10:30–11:30	Outdoor time (park, games, baby groups, visits to the Library)/On Tuesdays Spanish	5:00–5:30	Activity/Outdoor activity
11:30–12:00	Lunch	5:30–6:30	Free play and home time
12:00–1:30	Nap time/Planned activities (Treasure basket)		



We provide well-balanced nutritious menus, meals are prepared on a daily basis including their five portions of fruit and veg everyday. We don't 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 mixing and measuring out ingredients, but they don't go near anything sharp or hot!

Sample Menu:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Malt cereal with milk and sliced banana, crumpet & spread, water	Cornflakes with milk and raisins and kiwi fruit, toast & spread, water	Hard-boiled egg and tomatoes with wholemeal bread and spread, Banana	Wheatabix with milk and mixed berries, half a slice of fruit bread and spread	Crisped rice cereal and milk, half a bagel with spread and melon
Snack	Breadsticks, mixed vegetable sticks, milk or water	Toasted crumpet with spread, strawberries, milk or water	Yoghurt and sliced grapes, milk or water	Wholemeal toast with spread and mangetout, milk or water	Banana slices, milk or water
Lunch	Thai chicken/tofu curry with white rice, seasonal fruit salad, water	Lamb/tofu moussaka with garlic bread & mixed salad, rhubarb fool water	Vegetable and red lentil dhansak with brown rice	Salmon/bean and pea risotto, blueberry sponge cake	Bean and veggie sausage wholemeal pasta bake, fruit, jelly and ice cream
Snack	Cheese (sliced or sticks) and sliced tomatoes, milk or water	Pineapple slices, milk or water	Mashed avocado and pitta bread, milk or water	Mixed chopped seasonal fruit, milk or water	Cucumber and carrots sticks with crackers and cream cheese, milk or water
Dinner	Bean and tomato gnocchi, bread and spread, strawberry frozen yoghurt, water	Tuna fishcakes (or potato and lentil cakes) with tomato relish, Seasonal fruit salad	Pasta with beans and peas, rice pudding with peach purée	Wholemeal English muffin pizza with various toppings, banana slices	Crustless quiche with potato salad and pepper sticks, apple slices and raisins

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 Growing 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. Growing 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. Growing 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 Growing 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:

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/>



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.

Parents as Partners

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 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



"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 son is well cared for, happy and learning more than he would do with just me."



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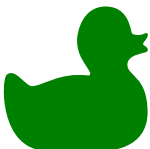
"Caroline and her team at Lucky Beans completely came to our rescue when we decided to have a last minute change in childcare plans. From the start, everyone has been warm, welcoming and extremely caring and our daughter is so happy to be there. Wonderful setting, excellent team and great facilities.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



"We 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."



"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 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."



MY THOUGHTS..



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick, hand-drawn pink border, intended for writing thoughts.



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