

“Children learn through resources and planned activities to understand and reflect the diversity of the modern world”



WMM
working mums

Daycare & Pre-School



Your child's education and future start with us...

“Children enjoy exploring textures, both natural and man-made, encouraging confidence and learning”

Welcome to Working Mums

We understand that choosing a nursery or pre-school that is right for both you and your child can be a difficult decision, which is why we do our best to make it as easy as possible.

We offer everything you would expect from an Ofsted registered nursery and pre-school, such as excellent standards of daily care and education, a nurturing and safe environment, freshly prepared food, and well maintained buildings and outdoor areas. Another important aspect of our service that makes Working Mums popular with parents is that we endeavour to make a variety of arrangements work for all concerned: for you and your child and us. For example, our breakfast and evening clubs have proved invaluable to parents who benefit from that extra time in the morning or at the end of the day.

In fact many parents tell us that for their child, Working Mums is a 'home from home' because we accommodate their needs rather than the other way around. This, we believe, is the essence of Working Mums. Here you will find an approach to childcare and education that sets the standards rather than just simply following them; an approach that sees beyond the 'requirements'. We can do this because we pay attention to detail, such as a child's likes and dislikes, habits and routines.

In short, we provide an environment that your child positively wants to come to, whether that's once or twice a week, or every day.

There are many factors that make Working Mums the number one choice for parents, not least the experience, dedication and enthusiasm of all of our staff. We are very fortunate that some of our staff have been with us for many years. Not only have they watched the children grow and develop until they leave for 'big' school, but also the staff members themselves have benefited from working with colleagues they know and trust; both of which help foster a sense of belonging for the children while at the same time enhancing their emotional security.

Our dedication stems from one single goal and that is to provide the best possible care and education for your child. We believe that the most effective way to achieve this is to ensure your child is happy. For children to be happy they need to be busy, and to be busy they need to be engaged with their environment. This ethos is evident throughout our nursery and pre-school settings at East Sheen and Mortlake.


We hope our Prospectus provides some insight into our ethos here at Working Mums as well as providing you with the detail you need to make your choice. However, there is no better way to know if an organisation is right for you and your child than to visit it first-hand. So we do hope you will give us an opportunity to show how we can provide a 'home from home' for your child too.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Su Costa.

Su Costa
Director





“The partnership between
parents and staff
contributes to continuity
of care for the children”

Ofsted Report

Meeting the needs of today's parents and children

There are many reasons why parents enrol their child at nursery or pre-school, but whatever they are, all parents share one single experience and that is the emotions involved in leaving their child in someone else's care. We recognise this is a powerful driver in your selection criteria and it is because we understand this that we do our utmost to make a visit to Working Mums feel like an outing to see an extended family.

We also understand that the desire to know what your child is up to is very strong, which is why we positively encourage two-way communication between parents and staff. When a parent leaves their child with us for the first time they may find an email from us, with a photo attached, showing their child settling in. At the end of their child's session, they will be met by a key team member who will hand over to them any significant moments from the day such as break-throughs in their child's development, activities they have enjoyed, their personal routines and any other information that is important for them to support their child's day at nursery. So as you can see, we do our best to share your child's day with you.

We could go on about the fully resourced designated areas where the children play and learn, about our ability to be flexible to your schedule, and how your child will be fed freshly-prepared, nutritious food; but we won't, because we know that you would expect this and much more.

What you may not know is that your child will be assigned a key person who will monitor their development and report back their progress to you during the regular review meetings. Your child's key person will get to know all their habits, routines and idiosyncrasies such as which side their teddy sleeps or which is their favourite food or game.

Ask for more details about our 'Key Person Programme' when you visit us.

Preparing your child for their tomorrow

As you would expect, Working Mums follows rigorously the Government's curriculum, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which of course every nursery and pre-school is required to do. Working Mums is no different. However, the difference is in the 'how', which is reflected in our results – you will find the latter in the latest Ofsted reports for Working Mums on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

We believe our success is due to getting the right balance between child-led and adult-directed learning opportunities, which can be directly attributed to the ongoing training and professional development of our staff. These two factors play a vital role in meeting the educational needs of a child as well as offering the opportunity for learning social interaction through one-to-one or group activities and play.

Educational experts and our own experience tell us that to encourage learning and co-operation we need to accommodate a child's routine, needs and desires. We have proved successful in this endeavour for both the child and Ofsted. In short, when a child enjoys an activity or task, they will retain the learning more effectively – for example, a child can learn colours (and numbers) just as effectively by playing with cars and imaginary traffic lights as they can by rote.



“We recognise that every child’s learning journey is unique to them”



Frequently asked questions

Q1. What will my child be doing at Working Mums?

Our young babies enjoy a specially designed nursery area where the team provide them with individual attention and play in between the child’s feeding and sleep routine, and for those quiet times, they can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a dedicated sleeping room. We follow your baby’s routine, and what comes naturally for them.

Our two to three year olds enjoy a vibrant and fun-filled environment in which to explore, play and interact with both staff and their fellow playmates. Every activity is an opportunity to have fun and learn, from eating together and toilet training to co-ordination and verbal tasks.

For our pre-school children, the focus is on preparing them for ‘big’ school, but that’s not to say they don’t have fun doing it! They follow a balanced timetable, covering subjects such as music, dance and art to basic reading, writing and arithmetic... and computer studies! The children work towards the ‘Early Learning Goals’ as their curriculum, being part of Ofsted’s ‘Early Years Foundation Stage’.

Q2. What is the food like?

The plates are usually left spotless, which is a great compliment to our cooks. The food is all freshly prepared and freshly cooked, and follows a menu that is balanced, nutritious and delicious, so your child will get the five-a-day foods during meal and snack times. Plus we aim to accommodate most food preferences whether for personal or medical reasons.

Q3. My child always sleeps at a particular time during the day. How will this work with your routine?

Your child’s routine at home will be mirrored at nursery. For example, if they are used to having a sleep after lunch then they will sleep after lunch at Working Mums.

Q4. What if I get the urge to ring up and find out what my child’s up to? Can I call?

Yes, you are very welcome to call at any time and as many times as you wish. We will also call you if we have a specific piece of news or to give you an update. We also encourage parents to share some time with us so they can see for themselves what their children are up to or have produced that day. We will often email photographs to parents at work or home so they can see for themselves that their child is settling in well and having fun.

Q5. How qualified are the staff? How often do you have to replace staff?

We are very fortunate to have such experienced and qualified staff. They are a highly motivated group of individuals who not only happily undertake the latest Ofsted-expected training but also actively participate in ongoing professional development.


Many of our staff members have been with us for many years, during which time they have seen babies arrive and then leave as youngsters well-prepared for ‘big’ school. This longevity of service provides a vital benefit for children and parents alike. For children it provides continuity, which is invaluable in helping them to feel reassured and secure; for parents, it’s equally reassuring to know their child is being looked after by a team of people whom their child knows and is happy to see each day.

What’s more, our staff benefit too, by working with the same people each day. They get to know each other very well, which has an extremely positive effect on their performance as a team.

Q6. How do I know how my child is progressing?

Each child is assigned a key person who will monitor their individual development, physically, educationally and emotionally. This information is recorded and will be shared with you at the regular review meetings or sooner if appropriate.





“Every child deserves
the best possible start
in life, with support to
fulfil their potential”

DFES

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the curriculum for all nurseries and pre-schools registered with Ofsted. Each nursery delivers The Early Years Foundation Stage to suit their individual setting. We provide planning to meet the individual needs of the children through both adult-initiated and child-initiated activities and resources.

This curriculum not only sets the educational criteria for the learning and development of babies and children up to the age of five years but also shapes the high standards of practice. Its central aim is to help young people achieve the ‘Every Child Matters’ outcomes:

- Staying safe
- Being healthy
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making positive contributions
- Achieving economic well-being

It is a framework which we at Working Mums embrace wholeheartedly, from activities, resource and staff training through to policies, practices and leadership.

“A child’s experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that provides that assurance.”

DFES, 2007

Another key aspect of the Early Years Foundation Stage is the ratio between staff and children. As you would expect, Working Mums complies with the statutory requirements and in many instances, exceeds them by having a higher ratio of staff to children. This means that your child will not only benefit from individual staff attention and monitoring but also a real opportunity for the staff to get to know your child and to find the best way to help them develop.



“Children confidently make choices and decisions when they select their toys and activities”

Ofsted Report



Don't just take our word for it

Many of our parents tell us how happy they feel leaving their child with us because they know they are being well cared for and loved. In fact, the children have such a nice time they sometimes don't want to go home!

“Working Mums Nursery has been part of our family for about five years and we could not exist without it. It's like a second home for our kids (except with more toys and friends). Having tried the services of a nanny as well as using the nursery, there is something very reassuring about knowing that your children are being looked after in a secure environment with qualified staff keeping an eye over them as they socialise and interact with other children constantly.”

Gabrielle Luketina

When it comes to choosing a nursery or pre-school, we know that parents have strict criteria; they tell us their top criteria are as follows:

Opening hours ✓ Healthy, freshly-prepared food ✓
Qualified and friendly staff ✓ Atmosphere and presentation ✓
Cleanliness and hygiene ✓ Ofsted reports ✓

All of the above criteria are important to us – and we at Working Mums constantly strive to meet them all.

Another way in which parents tell us how they feel about Working Mums is through the ‘thank you’ cards we receive, mainly from children leaving to go to ‘big’ school. You will find them displayed on the walls when you visit us.

“Quite simply, you have been brilliant. Thanks for taking such good care of our little treasure! You have cared for her, made her laugh and loved her. She will miss you heaps.”

Caroline, Neil & Katie

Often parents ask us how we handle staff absences. Well, we have some very regular long-standing cover staff who are as much a part of our team as our full-time team members. Here's why Carole loves coming in to work:

“Working as cover staff at Working Mums is always a pleasure. It is lovely to be part of such a happy and relaxed setting. I enjoy engaging with the children and staff and joining in with the many creative activities there.”

Carole Butterfield

“Thanks for looking after Maja so well. She has LOVED it from the first day. You have made Maja and myself feel very welcome and well looked after. We will miss you!”

Hanna and Maja

Here are just a few things Ofsted has said about us in their latest reports...

‘The development of children's creativity is a strength in the nursery's provision. Attractive displays of art work around the rooms show that children's work is respected and not “adjusted” by adults.’

‘All children are making good progress in their learning because each child is given individual attention and support by staff. Their progress is noted by their key person who compiles a “Journey Book” to share with their parents.’

‘Toys and resources are arranged so that children can make choices and access them easily. Babies are cared for in a pleasant room which has ample space for them to crawl, walk and play.’

‘Children thoroughly enjoy freshly cooked meals at the nursery. Children only have food that agrees with them because staff consult with parents about any special requirements and food allergies.’

‘Children have good opportunities for healthy exercise at the setting. They enjoy their outdoor play and make good use of varied resources that include balls and wheeled toys.’

Quotes from Ofsted Inspection Report – 2006



“Children have opportunities for healthy exercise at nursery. They enjoy their outdoor play and make good use of the varied resources”

Ofsted Report



Daycare & Pre-School

Our nurseries and pre-schools are bound together by the Working Mums ethos that demands exceptional standards of care and education; yet at the same time, each one has its own individual and unique character. Perhaps this individuality is accentuated because the style and setting of each property is different. Or maybe it reflects the way in which each nursery and pre-school adjusts to fit the needs and schedule of their parents. No doubt there are many possible reasons but one thing is certain: your child will be royally welcomed and cared for.

Our heritage

Working Mums Daycare & Pre-School has been going strong since 1992 at Mortlake, the former Mortlake Green School in Lower Richmond Road. The converted Edwardian school building is ideal as it provides both great indoor and outdoor spaces for the children to access all day.

Since Working Mums in Mortlake opened its doors, it has enjoyed a great reputation in the community, particularly because of its support for families and the love of seeing the children grow and develop. Owing to our positive reputation and demand we realised that there was a requirement for us to open another nursery setting to meet the needs of our parents in the community.

In September 2008 we opened our new nursery at East Sheen, providing our children a high standard of care through our experienced and qualified staff all of whom benefit from excellent facilities both inside and out.

Working Mums Daycare & Pre-Schools share many important qualities whilst ensuring they retain their individuality. What also remains very important is the support we aim to provide to parents. We remain dedicated to offering the most flexible provision of child-care possible without compromising on the quality of care or the child's well-being.

Working Mums looking forward

We plan to continue raising the bar of future childcare provision by challenging complacency and pioneering a forward-thinking approach today and every day. One way we will achieve this is to continue making significant investment in our staff by supporting their training and ongoing professional development. This is because Working Mums success to date can be attributed to the dedication of our staff and their leadership. How this manifests day-to-day is in the excellent relationships that our staff members have with the children and their parents. We know that Working Mums is only as good as the relationship between our staff and our customers (the big ones and the little ones!) and we plan to continue listening and responding to parents' needs, quickly and effectively.



“Children access their resources easily and they invent imaginary scenarios in their play”

Ofsted Report



Our commitment

This is the section where you could ask what's the point of a 'commitment statement', because we *would* say that, wouldn't we? Well, we believe making such a statement offers you and our staff the opportunity to ensure that our actions match these words every day:

“We are committed to supporting parents, ensuring the wellbeing of their children and providing our staff with ongoing training and professional development.”

Su Costa, Director

What next?

We appreciate that our Prospectus is one way of showing you how we do things here at Working Mums, but as we said at the start, there's no better way to know if an organisation is right for you and your child than to see it for yourself first-hand. So why not call us today to arrange a visit so that you can witness Working Mums in action and judge for yourself how we could provide a 'home from home' for your child.

To make an appointment or if you have any questions, please contact:

Working Mums Daycare & Pre-School

Mortlake

The former Mortlake Green School

69 Lower Richmond Road

Mortlake

London

SW14 7HJ

Tel: 0208 392 9969

Email: info@workingmumsdaycare.co.uk

Or visit www.workingmumsdaycare.co.uk

Working Mums Daycare & Pre-School

East Sheen

Roebuck House

284-286 Upper Richmond Road West

East Sheen

London

SW14 7JE

Tel: 0208 392 8522

Email: workingmumseast@daycare.co.uk

Or visit www.workingmumsdaycare.co.uk





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The former Mortlake Green School

Tel 0208 392 9969

Email info@workingmumsdaycare.co.uk

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