



"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child"





Dottie Tots Nursery Schools is a unique group of four settings nestled in village locations across Hampshire and Surrey. Each of our settings provides preschool places for around 30 children each day, taught by an amazing team of educators who offer a very heartwarming approach to educating children in their earliest years.

We are thrilled to share that our warm and caring approach is evident as soon as you step into our nurseries. We focus on sustainability, providing children with unique upcycled and recycled items, herb gardens, and exciting activities like caring for chicks and lambs. Outdoor play is a priority, offering a free-flow environment, forest school adventures, and growing fruits and veggies. We also get fresh organic milk from the local milkman's electric float! Regular visits to neighbouring schools, churches and care homes foster community connections. Additionally, our gardens provide a peaceful space for children to unwind. We are committed to creating diverse and enriching experiences for all our little ones!

We focus on learning through play, emphasising the importance of giving children the freedom to choose their activities in a nurturing environment. Our educators offer guidance during small group sessions and prioritise children's learning during focused activities. Our approach, 'Joining the D.O.T.S', complements our reflective style and aligns with our understanding of how children learn best.



The key elements of 'Joining the D.O.T.S' are:

- D Developing a love for learning
- O Opportunities for open-ended play
- T Time for play, socialising, exploration and consolidation
- S Skills for life

We use the Famly app, which promotes parent partnerships and involvement. It is an interactive tool that allows parents to engage in daily activities, view detailed observations, collaborate with their child's learning and routines, and communicate with the staff team.

Dottie Tots is dedicated to providing a nurturing and homely environment for all our children. Our goal is to celebrate the individuality of each child and cater to their specific needs within a relaxed learning environment where they feel safe and secure.

We aim for our children to grow confidently, to be self-motivated, and to become curious and independent learners through play and exploration.















Dottie Tots Bentley Memorial Hall, Alton Rd, Bentley, Hampshire. GU10 5NB





Dottie Tots Kingsley The Kingsley Centre Main Road, Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire. GU35 9ND





Dottie Tots Churt Churt Village Hall, Crossways, Churt, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 2JA





Dottie Tots Crondall The Scout Centre Pankridge Street Crondall, Farnham, Hampshire. GU10 5RQ





### Welcome to Dottie Tots Nursery School in Bentley. We are an established nursery school located in the Memorial Hall in Bentley village. Our environment allows our children to free flow outdoors all day, every day, whatever the weather.

We strive to cultivate the uniqueness of each child by addressing their individual needs in a relaxed learning environment where they feel safe and secure. Through play and exploration, we promote confidence, selfmotivation, and autonomy.

We support children's freedom to choose, explore their play, and enjoy plenty of outdoor time. Children thrive when they can play outside, using various equipment to investigate, pretend, move around in, relax in, and take safe risks. Our educational programme provides children with access to natural and open-ended resources and materials to enrich their learning experiences.

Our skilled educators are dedicated to guiding, boosting, and accompanying children in their development. It is our goal to foster an environment where children can learn and grow through playing and exploring together.

We have established close ties with our local village school. Our children have had opportunities to explore the beautiful woodland area there and participate in their Christmas nativity. We also have connections with our local care home. We understand the significance of intergenerational learning and how it can benefit everyone involved. Our children enjoy singing to the residents and sharing stories with them. We believe that these interactions enhance their social and emotional development, as well as broaden their view of the world around them.

We provide phonics sessions for our preschoolers to help them develop their listening, attention, and fine motor skills. We also provide intervention programmes for children who require additional support with communication and language skills. These programmes take place in small groups and concentrate on engaging children with language and sounds through rhymes, songs, and adult-led conversations to set an example and encourage the development of language skills.

Our yoga classes concentrate on mindfulness and help our children connect with their bodies and emotions. Yoga assists our children in handling their feelings, boosting their self-esteem, and enhancing their strength and flexibility. The children really enjoy participating in yoga classes and always show a lot of enthusiasm and engagement. It is a favourite activity that they consistently enjoy!











# Situated in the Kingsley Centre at the heart of Kingsley, our setting is enveloped by beautiful farmland and trees, offering children a fantastic opportunity to immerse themselves in the Hampshire countryside within a supportive learning atmosphere.

We boast our secure field space located beside the nursery, offering ample room for children to play, dig, and climb freely. Adjacent to our field, you can often spot lambs grazing in the neighbouring area. We have a good relationship with the local farmer and have even had the pleasure of bottle-feeding some of the lambs.

Our nursery school is situated in the Kingsley Centre, alongside the Kingsley Organisation that offers support for disabled adults, as well as opportunities for personal growth, education, training, and independence. The centre also houses a small grocery shop, Post Office, and café, creating a welcoming community atmosphere. Our nursery is located at the far end of the building, with our secure space and garden designed for the children to freely access the outdoors throughout the day, in all weather conditions.

We value and promote independence and emotional intelligence. We believe it is important to learn life skills and incorporate them into our daily routine. This includes chopping our own fruit and vegetables for snacks, washing our own dishes at dinner time, and exploring our emotions through self-expression. We discuss why we feel a certain way and take time to reflect on our behaviours.

We have established strong community ties and often collaborate with The Green Room School. Here, their teachers and students generously volunteer their time to teach our children bushcraft skills and read with them. Additionally, we take our children to The Green Room School, where they engage in forest school-inspired sessions and have hands-on experiences with farm animals and reptiles.

Our early years teacher leads weekly phonics sessions for our children. The goal of these sessions is to improve communication and language skills, and to support early reading and writing abilities. The sessions are engaging and include activities that enhance listening, attention, and fine motor skills. These activities also promote hand strength, an important element of children's pre-writing skills.

We provide yoga classes for all children to promote mindfulness, physical exercise, and help them to understand and manage their emotions better. Our children are consistently enthusiastic and engaged during the sessions, making yoga a firm favourite activity.

ac on the solution

Dirt on My Shirt

There's dirt on my shirt And leaves in my hair There's mud on my boots But I don't really care Playing outside is so much fun To breathe the clean air And feel the warm sun To stomp in a puddle Or climb a big tree Makes me so happy Just look and you'll see







Welcome to Dottie Tots Churt. We are situated in the heart of the village, providing easy access to local amenities such as the park, cricket field, and pavilion. This enables us to create enriching learning environments for our children and nurture a sense of community. Additionally, we establish strong relationships with the village school and church, allowing us to participate in community events such as the annual Churt Village Fete held each summer.

At Dottie Tots Churt, we place children at the centre of all our activities. Our setting encourages a learning environment that flows freely, giving children the opportunity to guide their play. Our committed educators provide enriching learning experiences that are tailored to the children's interests, and they also work closely with parents and carers.

Outdoor play is encouraged all day, with nature playing a significant role in children's learning experiences. Our children enjoy picking fresh herbs for potions or homemade playdough. We offer a variety of activities to enrich children's experiences, ranging from messy sensory play to yoga and using real tools for building. Our sensory room is equipped for children to be active or have a calm moment whenever needed. We strive to create a warm and welcoming environment that provides opportunities for parents and carers to participate in events like parents' evenings, afternoon teas, and sports days.

Our learning environments are equipped with a range of real objects and resources for children. These are carefully selected to pique their curiosity and stimulate their learning by encouraging them to interact and investigate everyday objects in a meaningful and open manner. Whether your child is holding a whisk or the enchanted mixer for our natural potions, we follow their imagination to enrich their growth and foster a continuous adventure!

From our youngest Dinkiest Dots who enjoy tummy time to strengthen their core muscles, to helping our Mini Spots with toilet training through practical activities and engaging our Polka Dots in weekly phonics sessions to prepare for school – our caring learning environment focuses on children's emotional intelligence and personal development. This approach helps them cultivate a strong sense of self and enhance their growing skills.

# (Jotile)

### The Sculptors

I dreamt I stood in a studio And watched two sculptures there. The clay they used was a young child's mind And they fashioned it with care. One was a teacher; The tools he used were books, music and art. One a parent; With a guiding hand, and a gentle loving heart. Day after day the teacher tiled With a touch that was loving and sure, And polished and smooth it o'er. And when at last the task was done, They were proud of what they wrought. For the things they had moulded into the child Could never be sold or bought. And each agreed he would have failed If he had worked alone. For behind the parent stood the nursery school, And behind the teacher; The home.





We are a well-established nursery school situated in the charming village of Crondall, surrounded by open fields, ancient woodlands, and incredible wildlife. At Dottie Tots Crondall, our core principles centre around the natural environment, nature, and sustainability.

While the nursery is operational, we have sole use of approximately 2.3 acres of woodland, which supports our classrooms in being connected directly to the stunning outdoor environments, enabling continuous free flow provision. Classroom interiors are laid out to create snug home-from-home environments. All areas provide opportunities for each child to develop as a unique individual.

The philosophy of all our settings is to provide child-centred education with a heuristic approach to learning and development, which is led by a team of skilled educators. Here at Crondall, we offer children endless learning opportunities which are complemented by the range of education styles we use such as Montessori, Forest School Approach, Reggio Emilia, and the Curiosity and the Froebelian Approaches. They all work beautifully together as they are all holistic and child-centered, which works well with the ethos of Dottie Tots.

We encourage children to navigate an environment where they have choices, time to explore their play, and spend as much time outside as possible. Children learn best when immersed in the great outdoors with equipment and activities where they can explore, seek delight, role play, move freely, sit in a den, and take risks (fully risk-assessed, of course!). We understand that children need natural objects to learn about their world and dedicated, well-qualified educators who can support, enhance, and help guide their development. We aim to nurture the uniqueness of each child, meet individual needs through a relaxed learning atmosphere where children feel safe and secure. Through play & exploration we encourage confidence, self-motivation, and autonomy.

We offer a range of enrichment activities, including forest school led by our forest school teacher. Our phonics sessions help children with communication, language development, and early reading and writing skills. These interactive sessions include activities that improve listening, attention, and fine motor skills. They also help to strengthen hand muscles, vital for pre-writing skills. Additionally, we provide weekly yoga classes for children, focusing on teaching them valuable skills, promoting mindfulness, and helping them understand their bodies and emotions. Yoga has numerous benefits such as improving emotional regulation, enhancing self-esteem, increasing body awareness and mindfulness, boosting concentration and memory, and enhancing strength and flexibility. Our children show great enthusiasm and engagement during their yoga sessions – it's always a popular choice!

Our carbon footprint is extremely important to us. We discourage single-use plastic and create a high proportion of our own resources from recycled and repurposed materials to spark awe and wonder amongst our children. All our learning resources are authentic, traditional, and natural, keeping a calm and welcoming environment for all children and their families.









mano



**Monday** Macaroni cheese baked with cannellini beans and little broccoli trees - Ce, Da, Mu

High Tea: Selection of sandwich triangles made with wholemeal bread, cucumber batons and seasonal citrus fruit to follow - Ce, Da, Se

#### Tuesday

Three bean chilli Served with cous cous and sliced green beans - Ce

High Tea: Toasted and buttered crumpets served with free range scrambled eggs and avocado slices with fresh pineapple chunks to follow - Ce, Da, Eg

#### Wednesday

Baked pizza roll ups stuffed with mushrooms, spinach and mozzarella. Served with garlic and thyme potato cubes and crunchy carrot sticks - Ce, Da

High Tea: Simply traditional 'beans on toast' made with wholemeal bread fingers and low salt and sugar baked beans, sprinkled with cheddar or dairy free cheese if desired. Seasonal prepared fruit to follow - Ce, Da

> Thursday Italian lentils served with jasmine rice and cucumber slices

High Tea: Selection of tortilla wraps served with pepper and cucumber veggie sticks with freshly sliced melon wedges to follow - Ce, Da

Friday Slow cooker vegetarian sausage casserole served with new potatoes - Cel, Ce, Eg

High Tea: Toasted pitta bread with hummus, cream cheese and dairy free dips served with olives and cucumber slices with seasonal prepared fruit to follow - Ce, Da

~ All lunches include a varied delicious dessert ~

888888 88





~ Dottie Tots Sample Menu ~

and i







### Dottie's Dishes

We provide a warm and inviting mealtime atmosphere where both children and adults share the dining experience at the tables. This approach encourages social interactions and creates an engaging environment for our children during breakfast, lunch and tea.

Our menu is thoughtfully designed to offer a variety of healthy, appealing, and nourishing vegetarian meals, all freshly prepared in our kitchens each day.

### Breakfast

Breakfast can vary depending on the time of year, but typically includes a selection of 'nonsugar' cereals, wholemeal toast, fruit and milk. Breakfast is served each day until 8.30am.

### **Two Course Lunch**

We provide a daily two-course vegetarian hot lunch. Children and adults eat together in small groups at 11.30am. Alternatively, bringing a packed lunch is also an option for all children.

(At our Kingsley nursery, please note that our lunch menu is served at teatime)

### Afternoon Tea

A varied tea menu lets children explore new foods and textures at 4pm each day when we all have tea sat down together and recap on the exciting day we have had. (At our Crondall nursery, tea isn't currently an option due to our closure time being 4pm)

### Ingredients

We source all our meal ingredients locally whenever possible, ensuring they are free from additives, preservatives, added sugars and salt.

### Allergies

All allergies and special dietary requirements will be accommodated, and all food is prepared and served in a completely nut-free environment. Our parents will receive menus and menu updates seasonally, which include all allergen information.

### Food Hygiene & Training

All our settings have been awarded the '5 Star' Food Standards Agency Award and our staff hold Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificates.

If you have any questions about food choices, copies of the recipes we have developed, future menus, or suggestions which we may be able to consider within our menu choices, please do not hesitate to speak with your nursery manager.







### When you become part of our Dottie Tots family, you will receive a Dottie Tots backpack, an embroidered sleep blanket for children under two, a uniform top for children aged two and above, and a bamboo toothbrush.

For additional uniform purchases, please contact our nursery administrator at hello@dottietots.co.uk.

ne von

### It's about feeling comfortable!

Children should always wear comfortable and appropriate clothing all year round to help them fully engage in our curriculum whatever the weather and the type of activity! We provide aprons for messy and art / craft based learning.

To help us, we kindly request that you pack the following items in your child's bag daily:

Sleep blanket Spare set of weather-appropriate clothes, including underwear and socks, Splash suit or waterproof jacket and trousers for outdoors, Wellies and warm thick socks, Comfy slippers for indoor use, Sun hat for the sunnier months, Winter hat, scarf and gloves for those colder months, A water bottle, And if your child requires, their Nappies, wipes and cream

Please label all personal belongings and uniform with your child's name for easy identification and to make sure we return them to you. Lost and unidentifiable clothing will be kept for collection for an adequate time before passing on to charity if not claimed.





### Where children love to learn





# Our Curriculum

At Dottie Tots, our wholehearted approach is felt the minute you step in the door. With children at the heart of our every day, we ensure that we have a culture where educators, parents and the environment is carefully nurtured to ensure children get the best day and the very best education whilst in our settings.

### **Our Curious and Confident Children**

Children are welcomed with warm, caring and skilled educators who know that the early years are their most formative and children develop not only skills for learning but skills for life. We are dedicated to ensuring children feel good through strong relationships with peers and educators, they move their body well and learn how to feel valued, heard, seen and soothed where they build confidence and resilience, and a good sense of emotional intelligence.

With a good understanding that playing is how children learn, they are nurtured and encouraged to develop a 'have a go' attitude, where they ask questions and are taught how to learn, not what to learn. Developing fine and gross motor skills with climbing frames, water play, rolling, cutting and building is high on the agenda. Every activity is seen as a learning opportunity and every moment as a teachable moment, where children are given time to explore activities and more time to consolidate new skills, from doing up their zips to selecting and cutting up snacks to choosing where and what to play with.

### **Our Well Trained and Nurturing Educators**

Best practice tells us that for children to develop a love for learning, they require a balance of child initiated and adult directed play to thrive. We achieve this well through a reflective approach, with skilled educators who embed our broad and ambitious curriculum and who ultimately ensure that the needs and interests of each of our children are fully met and are supported throughout their learning journey with us. We also have trained phonics teachers, yoga instructors and Forest School champions who provide regular sessions in these specific areas for our children to further develop their skills.

Staff enjoy regular team meetings and Inset Days where they can extend their knowledge and understanding of child development and explore new theories and ways of doing things. Managers have good bonds between settings and support each other well. We pride ourselves on focusing on their wellbeing to ensure continued professional and personal development. If the team enjoys coming to work every day, they thrive, and the children get the best from them.

Children need to P AY to **CONSTRUCT KNOWLEDGE** PROBLEMLEARNCREATE SOLVEPROCESS EMOTIONS INTERNALISE EXPERIENCES DISCOVERCHALLENGE BE HEALTHY THEMSELVES LAUCH& HAVE FUN LEARN TO WORK IMAGINE **TOGETHER LEARN TO LEAD** EXPRESS EXPLORE SPEAK TOFASDEVELOP READ INOUIRING WRITE COUNT D matters.



## Our Curriculum

Staff get to know our children in loco parentis or 'second best' as we call it. As well as any parent knowing their child, we make bonds with children where they feel relaxed and comfortable in our care. We limit how much time we do paperwork and make observations because we spend quality time with children, get down to their level and interact in a way that supports their emotional wellbeing. When educators know their key children well enough, we are able to freely talk about where they are developmentally without the need to write anything down.

### **Involving and Supporting Parents**

We recognise parents as the most important educators of their children. Our educators regard themselves as partners in providing education and care for their child. There are many ways that parents can get involved, including the exchange of knowledge about their child's needs, activities, interests and progress. Volunteering a skill or their time; we have parents who have cooked and shared a special dish with our children, grandparents have spent time reading with us and we hold annual events such as Mother's Day tea, Father's Day Forest School and pet week, when we have even had a Shetland pony visit us in the garden. These experiences are so incredibly valuable in shaping our children, building on their cultural capital and sense of self within the earliest and most impactful years of their lives.



### Learning & Development

### Learning through play

Being active and playing supports young children's learning and development through doing and talking. This is how children learn to think about and understand the world around them. "Play is the highest form of research" – Albert Einstein

### The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This is the curriculum which sets standards for the learning and development for children in our care, It underpins and shapes everything that we do. Below is more information about the Prime Areas of Learning.

### Personal, Social Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development.

Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others.

Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary.

Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

### **Communication and Language Development**

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development.

The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial.



By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively.

Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive.

Through conversation, storytelling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures

### **Physical Development**

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults.

By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional wellbeing. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination which is later linked to early literacy.

Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Please go to our website: dottietots.co.uk/curriculum to read more and download a copy of 'Development Matters'.

### **Effective Learning**

Effective learning is achieved through the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' as outlined in the EYFS. These include playing and exploring (engagement), active learning (motivation), and creating and thinking critically (thinking).





### Learning & Development

Our goal is to support each child in becoming an effective and motivated learner by observing their learning process and offering appropriate support and resources.

### Assessment

Our leadership and management team conduct cohort meetings that mainly concentrate on our current cohort, their needs, and interests. Our Dinky Dots refer to our babies under two years old, Mini Spots are our two-year-olds, and Polka Dots represent our preschoolers aged 3 and 4. During these meetings, we outline the skills we aim for our children to acquire and the skills we want each group to have before transitioning to the next age group or starting school.

We assess our children's learning and growth through regular observations, capturing information through photos and video clips. We utilise Famly, a platform that encourages parental engagement and collaboration. Famly enables parents to participate in daily activities, access detailed observations, interact with their child's learning progression and routines, as well as communicate with the staff team effectively.

We value parents' feedback and encourage them to share their child's interests and how they support their development at home. Parents can also share their observations on Famly. We provide seasonal reflections to update parents on their children's progress. Additionally, we create transition reports for children moving to new settings or reception class, which we share with parents and their new key person or class teacher.

### Progress check at age two

At the age of two, a progress check is conducted as required by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This involves creating a written summary of a child's development in the prime areas: personal, social, and emotional development; communication and language development; and physical development. This check is completed by the child's key person using information from ongoing observations on Famly, considering the input from parents and other professionals.





# Our Sponsorships

At Dottie Tots we have undertaken the amazing and delightful commitment of sponsoring Celma who was born on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in Mozambique. We have made the commitment to her, her family and her community until she reaches adulthood. We receive letters, postcards and updates from her and her village and we send Celma all sorts of gifts and letters from the children in our nursery settings.

### The change is real,

We are the only sponsor of Celma, the money we give monthly goes directly to help her, her family and her village which is called Kazuzo in Mozambique.

### **Our Sponsorship change lives**

The money transforms life in Kazuzo by giving the village clean water, nutritious food, healthcare, education and a way to earn a living. We wish for Celma to enjoy her childhood free from need and full of promise.

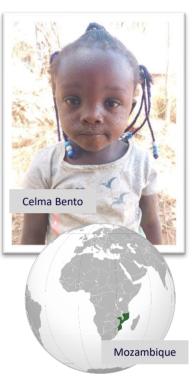
### Our friendship brings hope

Meanwhile, our friendship we are building together brings her real hope and encouragement, helping her reach her full potential and a way for our children to learn, help and understand about eh world we live in

### We will make a lasting difference

With our support, World Vision will be able to continue working with Kazuzo for years to come, until the people live free from poverty, with all the skills and resources they need to support themselves.





If you wish to know more or would like to make a donation, please email Andy on Support@dottietots.co.uk





We love animals here at Dottie Tots, with regular farm visits, pet weeks, and looking after various creatures within our settings. Animals have made a real buzz with our children so it made sense to extend this interest and care and adopt some animals from a local Zoo.

So we selected Marwell, close enough so our children can meet our adopted animals and see the Dottie Tots logos on the adoption signage. Each of our settings has adopted their own animal who lives at the zoo. We receive regular update of their progress, photos and activity packs. If you wish to know more, or would also like to undertake an adoption please speak to your nursery manager



**Ring-tailed lemur** 



Amur tiger



Humboldt penguin



Giraffe





Where children Love to learn