



Growing Little Champions

Baby Room

Parent

Information



01375 489094



www.theglc-primaryfreeschool.org.uk



GLC

Welcome to Growing Little Champions Nursery!

A very warm welcome to you and your precious little one from the entire team at Growing Little Champions Nursery!

We are absolutely thrilled you are considering us for this incredibly special stage of your child's journey, especially for our youngest learners aged 9 months to 2 years.

At Growing Little Champions, we understand that these early years are foundational for a lifetime of learning and discovery. Our dedicated and nurturing environment is specifically designed to provide a safe, stimulating, and loving space where your baby or toddler can flourish.

We believe in fostering curiosity, independence, and a love for exploration from the very beginning. Through a rich blend of child-led play and carefully planned activities, your little champion will embark on an exciting adventure of social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Our experienced practitioners are passionate about creating warm, responsive relationships, ensuring each child feels valued, secure, and ready to explore the wonderful world around them.

We look forward to partnering with you in these formative years, celebrating every giggle, every wobbly step, and every new discovery your child makes. Welcome to the Growing Little Champions family.

We look forward to meeting you,

The Growing Little Champions Nursery Team



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All Different: All Equal: Together, Improving Upon Our Best

Our Setting at Gateway Primary Free School

Growing Little Champions is conveniently located within the Gateway Primary Free School in Tilbury. Finding us is easy: simply enter the main school gates and follow the road along the curve until you spot our friendly 'Gruffalo' welcome sign.

You'll find separate access to the nursery through a white gate with an intercom, ensuring a secure and distinct entrance for our little ones. We welcome children from 9 months old, and many of our nursery graduates seamlessly transition into our primary school. This means the friendships your child makes here could truly last a lifetime!

Upon arrival, children are welcomed into our spacious entrance, where they have their own personal coat peg and bag hook for storing belongings. Our nursery features two main rooms, thoughtfully designed for different age groups. One room caters to children aged 9 months to 2 years, while the other is for children aged 2 to 3 years. Depending on their individual developmental stage, children may also have supervised access to both rooms, promoting a flexible and adaptive learning environment.

Both rooms are brimming with open-ended, educational, and exciting resources for children to explore independently. We offer a wide range of engaging activities, including painting, sand and water play, and various art materials. Each room also boasts cosy soft play areas with large rugs, cushions, and bean bags, perfect for snuggling and quiet time.

Our main rooms lead directly to our dedicated outdoor space, ensuring that children can enjoy stimulating outdoor play and learning opportunities throughout the entire year.



Meet Our Wonderful Team

At Growing Little Champions, we're incredibly proud of our dedicated and passionate team! Every member of our staff is committed to providing the highest quality of care and education for your child.



You can rest assured that all our practitioners are fully referenced and have undergone enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all our little champions.



We maintain an excellent adult-to-child ratio of 1:3, meaning there's always plenty of dedicated attention for each child. Furthermore, our team is highly skilled, with our Manager and Deputy Manager holding Qualified Teacher Status and all other practitioners have a Level 3 qualification in early years education.



We also actively support staff who are in supervised training, allowing them to gain valuable hands-on experience while working towards their qualifications under the guidance of our experienced leaders.



We truly believe that our team's expertise and genuine love for children make Growing Little Champions a special place for your child to thrive.





Enrolling Your Child

The journey to securing a space with us begins with a simple online enquiry. Just complete the form on our website, and a member of our team will be in touch to arrange a visit to our setting.

We believe it's essential for you to experience our nurturing environment first hand, and during your visit, you'll have the opportunity to meet a senior member of staff. They will give you a comprehensive tour, introduce you to our facilities, and happily answer any questions you may have about our curriculum, daily routines, or anything else on your mind.

If you feel Growing Little Champions is the perfect fit for your family, the final step is to complete our registration form to secure your child's place.

We're here to guide you through every step of this exciting process!



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Our Day at a Glance

Growing Little Champions offer a flexible learning environment, allowing us to incorporate diverse activities that spark our children's interests, ensuring everyone stays stimulated and engaged.

Below are the daily routines that are part of nursery life:

On arrival: Children are warmly welcomed by staff. Parents can share any important information from home (e.g., how they slept, last feed).

Breakfast is available between 7.45 and 8.30am. A selection of food is available, including cereal, fresh fruit and toast, with milk or water to drink.

Focused play & activities: throughout the morning the children are engaged in age-appropriate activities to support different areas of development. Staff interact with the children individually and in small groups, observing their interests and supporting their play.

Snack time: snacks are served from 10am and include fresh fruit, with water or milk to drink.

Lunch begins at 11.30am, children enjoy their packed lunches from home. Staff provide support and encouragement, fostering independence.

Sleep time: children settle down for their individual naps in a quiet, calm environment. Staff monitor children closely, ensuring their comfort and safety. For children who do not nap, quiet activities like reading books or gentle floor play are provided.



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Our Day at a Glance



Additional snack time: snacks are served from 2.30pm and include fresh fruit with water or milk.

Creative & discovery play: these are activities that build on the morning's themes or build on new concepts such as music and movement, storytelling with props and art activities. Children also have opportunities for self-directed play based on their interests.

Home time: Children are prepared for collection. Staff share highlights of the day and any important information with parents. Books and quiet activities are available for children with later collection times.



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Our Key Person Approach

At Growing Little Champions, we understand that starting nursery is a significant step for both children and parents. That is why we follow a Key Person approach, a system designed to ensure your child feels secure, happy, and well-supported from their very first day.

We believe in allowing each child the time and space to settle into the nursery naturally, fostering the opportunity for them to build a genuine and organic attachment with an adult who will become their key person. This allows for a truly child-led bond to form, ensuring their comfort and confidence.

Until a key person has been formally allocated, the Manager and Deputy Manager will remain your main points of contact. They are always available to answer your questions, discuss your child's progress, and ensure a smooth transition into our nursery family.

Upon your child's enrolment, you will receive an activation email for the EY Parent App. This is our comprehensive online system, designed to keep you fully informed and connected to your child's journey with us. Through the app, you'll have access to real-time observations and photos of your child's learning and development, keeping you updated on their exciting progress.

It is also where you'll find important key policies, essential information, and all your invoices, making communication and administration seamless and convenient.



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Curriculum & Learning

At Growing Little Champions Nursery, our core commitment is to nurture a lifelong love of learning and to lay strong foundations for your child's future success.

We achieve this by meticulously following the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, a comprehensive and holistic approach to early childhood education that guides all our activities and interactions.

For our youngest learners in the baby room (9 months to 2 years), we place particular emphasis on the three prime areas of the EYFS, as these are crucial milestones that underpin all subsequent learning and development:

- **Communication and Language:** From babbling and pointing to their first words and sentences, we create a rich, responsive language environment. Our practitioners engage in constant back-and-forth interactions, reading stories, singing songs, and responding to every sound and gesture, fostering confidence and a joy for expressing themselves.
- **Physical Development:** We provide ample opportunities for your little one to be active and interactive. This includes supporting their gross motor skills like crawling, cruising, and walking, as well as developing their fine motor skills through activities like grasping, stacking, and exploring various textures and objects. We encourage movement and healthy habits from the very beginning.



Curriculum & Learning

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Building secure attachments and a positive sense of self is paramount. Our key person approach ensures your child feels safe, loved, and understood. We support them in exploring their emotions, forming positive relationships with adults and peers, and developing independence in their self-care routines.

To truly capture and extend your child's innate curiosity, we utilise an 'in the moment' planning approach to learning. This means our skilled practitioners are constantly observing your child's interests and fascinations as they emerge during play. When we notice a "spark" of interest – whether it's an intense focus on building blocks, a fascination with water, or an attempt to communicate a new idea – we seize that "teachable moment." Our practitioners then respond immediately, extending the learning by asking open-ended questions, introducing new vocabulary, or providing additional resources, all within the context of your child's current engagement.

This dynamic and child-led approach ensures that learning is always meaningful, engaging, and deeply responsive to your child's individual needs and natural drive to explore.



Session Times & Fees

We offer a range of flexible sessions to suit your family's needs, all within a nurturing and stimulating environment.

Growing Little Champions is open Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 5:30pm, term-time only.

Baby Room Sessions

For our youngest learners in the Baby Room, we offer the following session options:

| Session | Time | Daily Fee |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| School Day | 7.30am – 3.30pm | £56.00 |
| Full Day | 7.30am – 5.30pm | £70.00 |
| Hourly Top -Up | 3.30pm – 4.30pm | £7.00 |

Should you be late when collecting your child, you will be charged a late collection fee of £15.00 per 15 minutes.

Fees and Funding

Our hourly fee for all sessions is £7.00

We are pleased to accept various forms of government funding to help with the cost of childcare. For more information please visit:



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Session Times & Fees

Payment of Fees: Fees must be paid monthly, in advance, by the 1st of each month. Please note there is no reduction in fees or changing of days for absence due to holidays or sickness. Please use your child's name as the payment reference. Payment is by bank transfer only using the following bank details:

Account: Growing Little Champions

Account Number: 72862416

Sort Code: 60-09-11

Non-payment of fees: If payments are late, a reminder invoice will be issued. If two months invoices remain unpaid the child's hours will be reduced to funding hours only (if the child is entitled to funding) with no guarantee that the additional hours will be available once the debt is cleared. If the child is not entitled to funding, then the place at Growing Little Champions will be withdrawn. There will be a meeting to discuss with the parent, followed by a letter.



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Our Settling in Programme

A Gentle Transition for Your Little One

We understand that the transition into nursery is a significant milestone, especially for our youngest children aged 9 months to 2 years.

At Growing Little Champions, we believe that a well-supported settling-in period is absolutely crucial for babies to feel safe, secure, and ready to thrive in their new environment.

A positive start helps to build trust, reduces anxiety, and lays the groundwork for a happy nursery experience.

To ensure the smoothest possible transition, we have developed a comprehensive settling-in programme with the following non-negotiable requirements:

- **Initial Visit with Your Child:** Your journey begins with a joint visit to the nursery. This allows both you and your child to explore our spaces together, meet our practitioners, and begin to familiarise yourselves with the sights, sounds, and rhythms of our setting in a relaxed and pressure-free way.
- **Stay and Play Session:** Following your initial visit, we invite you and your child to a one hour "stay and play" session. This provides another opportunity for your little one to engage with the environment and our staff, while still having the comfort and security of your presence nearby. It's a fantastic chance for them to become more comfortable and for us to observe their initial interactions.



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- **Child to Stay Without Parent/Carer for Up to One Hour:** The final step in our settling-in process involves your child spending a short period, typically up to one hour, at the nursery without you. This is a vital step in building their independence and confidence, allowing them to experience our care and routines on their own.

Our experienced team will closely monitor their comfort and well-being throughout this time, and we will contact you immediately if your child becomes distressed.

We are committed to partnering with you throughout your child's transition, as we understand every child is unique. The nursery will determine when your child is ready to begin full-time hours.

Our goal is to ensure your little champion feels completely at home, ready to embrace all the wonderful learning and play opportunities that await them.

Important:

To ensure a smooth transition for your child, GLC employees should select their child's start date with care. We highly recommend their first day be at least two weeks before you resume work. This allows us to contact you if your child needs extra support during this initial adjustment phase.



Daily Checklist for the Baby Room

To ensure your child has a comfortable and happy day with us, please use this checklist to pack their bag each morning.

Essential Daily Items:

- Change of Clothes (x2 full sets)
 - Consider the weather – indoor and outdoor layers are helpful.
- Nappies:
 - Enough for the day
- Wipes
 - One full pack or a good quantity in a reusable container
- Nappy Cream/Barrier Cream (if your child uses it)
- Comforter/Soother (if your child uses it)

Seasonal Daily Items:

- Hat:
 - Sun hat in warmer months, warm hat in colder months.
- Outdoor Coat/Jacket:
 - Appropriate for the weather forecast.
- Sun Cream:
 - Please apply before arrival, and we can reapply if needed (please provide)

Food and Drink:

- Cold Packed Lunch
 - Suggestions for a balanced lunch: sandwiches, wraps, pasta, fruit, vegetable sticks, yoghurt or cheese



Daily Checklist for the Baby Room

- **Bottles**

- Formula: enough pre-measured formula powder for each feed needed, in a separate dispenser or small containers. We will add water here.
- Breast Milk: Clearly labelled with child's name and date, in individual bottles for each feed.
- Bottle and/or cup: filled with water only

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

