



The Dinotots Group of Nurseries

PROSPECTUS



Education is not preparation
for life; education is life itself.

JOHN DEWEY

Providing Professional Childcare For your Child

Putting the 'care' back into Childcare

www.dinototsgroup.co.uk



YOUR HAPPINESS IS GUARANTEED AT DINOTOTS!

At Dinotots we understand how difficult it can be to entrust your child to a nursery. Finding someone to look after your child is the most important decision you may make this year which is why we offer all new parents our 'Happiness Guarantee'

That's correct! You did read that right!

We are so confident that your child will love it at your chosen Dinotots Nursery that we offer all new parents our 14 day money back guarantee.



So, if your child does not settle, or anything else regarding the nursery doesn't make you 100% happy within the first 14 calendar days of your child attending the nursery, then you can request, in writing, to cancel your contract, without having to pay the childcare industry's standard 4-week notice period AND you will get a refund of any remaining days on that month's invoice that you've paid for but haven't used.

We can't say fairer than that!

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THE 'DINOTOTS WAY'



The 'Dinotots Way' was the creation of our Managing Director to highlight that Dinotots nurseries do not operate in the same way as a standard nursery; We strive to provide an exceptionally high quality of care, safety and operational standards far exceeding the legal requirements and parents standard expectations

WELCOME TO THE DINOTOTS GROUP

The 'Dinotots Way' is our nurseries way of life; how we operate on a day-to-day basis; how the staff act, and react, to situations; our training; our Childcare offer; the way each child is respected as an individual.

This ethos has proved so popular that one of our local Primary schools has also recently adopted their own 'way'

The 'Dinotots Way'

At Dinotots Nurseries, we are committed to creating a sanctuary of growth and discovery, where every child is cherished for their unique qualities. As you step into our world, you'll be greeted with warmth and a sincere smile, affirming that you are valued members of our Dinotots family.

We understand that trust is the foundation of our relationship with you and your little ones. That's why safeguarding is at the heart of the Dinotots experience - it's not just a policy; it's our promise to you. We pledge to maintain the highest standards of safety, ensuring a secure environment where your child can flourish without bounds.

In the Dinotots community every voice matters. We are devoted to an open, collaborative approach, where your insights and perspectives shape the exceptional care we provide. We believe that together, we can create a nurturing journey that celebrates every milestone and every moment of joy.

Experience the Dinotots difference, where care, safety, love, and joy are not just ideals, but the essence of everything we do. Welcome to the Dinotots way - where little footsteps make big impressions. Putting the 'care' back into Childcare.

WHAT MAKES DINOTOTS DIFFERENT?

Why choose us as your preferred childcare provider?

WELCOME TO THE DINOTOTS GROUP

In our opinion there are MANY reasons that a parent or caregiver would choose to enrol their child at a Dinotots setting, some would say TOO many to list, but here are a few reasons we feel you may find important when choosing the right nursery for your child:

- **Dinotots Lead - Others Follow**

We are proud to be able to honestly state that since the creation of the first Dinotots Nursery others began to observe us more closely and try to adapt their offering accordingly; the way we do business, our room layouts, our charging structure, the resources we use and even the way we post on Social media! This only increased with every nursery we opened

We are, however, humbled to know that, by this imitation, we are obviously doing it right!

- **A Solid Reputation**

We are extremely happy to be able to state that Dinotots nurseries have both an enviable reputation with our parents and carers and also a great reputation in our community

This has been gained through a warm and comforting environment, passionate nursery practitioners, active learning from the children, and our safe and child-friendly facilities.

The majority of our parents are gained from receiving referrals and through positive word-of-mouth. Hearing from trusted friends about their good experiences with Dinotots is the best form of ambassador for our services.

- **Safeguarding is our passion, not just a requirement**

We understand that leaving your child in the care of others can be extremely daunting.

We understand it is not a decision you make lightly; you enquire with numerous provisions, you filter down your preferred places and then go and take a look around. It's a lot to take in from just that one visit and a big decision to make, sometimes in a short space of time.

We are here to guide you through the process, smoothly, peacefully and professionally.

- **Parent's Breakfast Stations**

We understand that your life is hectic, trying to get your young one to Dinotots can seem like mobilising an Army some mornings!

This can even take precedence over grabbing a quick bite to eat or even a hot beverage - so we have you covered. At Dinotots we have a Parent Breakfast station where you can pick up a **FREE** coffee, tea and a snack or piece of fruit to get you started on the right foot.

- **Defibrillators in the settings**

Defibrillators have the potential to save the lives of children, staff and visitors in Early Years Settings, with research showing that accessing these devices within 3-5 minutes of a cardiac arrest increases the chance of survival by over 40%.

Dinotots settings have their own, privately funded defibrillators on site and all staff are fully trained on their use.

These are not gimmicks, they are potential life savers which Dinotots have invested in to provide instant assistance when needed, and although we hope they will never be needed you may want to ask why other settings wouldn't be investing in them!

- **Millies Mark Accreditation**

Dinotots Settings* are the **ONLY Early Years Providers in the area** to gain the Millie's Mark Accreditation and to undergo the rigorous assessment process which includes an evaluation of first aid policies and procedures, as well as an assessment of our staff's first aid skills knowledge.

The assessments are carried out by an independent assessor who is trained and accredited by the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)

Parents and caregivers can be confident that a childcare provider with Millie's Mark Accreditation has met high standards for first aid and emergency management

Millies Mark was created in memory of Millie Thompson, a young girl who tragically died from choking whilst attending a nursery in 2012. The accreditation is designed to prevent similar tragedies from occurring and to provide reassurance to parents and caregivers that, whilst at Dinotots their children are in safe hands

**Both Dinotots Childcare AND Dinotots Daycare hold the accreditation*

- **Fully Equipped Sensory Rooms**

The Sensory rooms within the Dinotots Nurseries are designed to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children to explore and develop their senses.

Our sensory rooms are equipped with a range of sensory equipment, such as light displays, soft play areas, tactile surfaces, and sound and music systems.

Our fully equipped sensory rooms are designed to meet the sensory needs of children with a range of abilities and needs. This may include children with sensory processing disorders, autism spectrum disorder, or other developmental or learning disabilities.

In our sensory rooms, children can explore and engage with the environment in a safe and controlled way, allowing them to develop their senses and build confidence in their abilities.

Sensory rooms can also provide a calming and therapeutic environment for children who may be experiencing anxiety or stress.

At Dinotots we find that a professionally equipped sensory room can provide a valuable resource for children with a range of abilities and needs, helping them to develop their senses, build confidence, and experience the world in a safe and stimulating way.

CONTINUED...

- **Affordable and Cost-Effective Fees**

While cost is an important consideration when choosing a childcare provider, it is also important to remember that the quality of care should not be compromised.

At Dinotots we, and the parents currently using our services, feel that we have found an extremely balanced approach that makes them cost-effective, sustainable and able to renew, refresh and integrate new resources back into the nursery.

Our flexible method of charges enables parents and carers the ability to choose the hours and days of care that best suit their needs and schedules with clear and transparent charges from the outset.

- **All Staff Paediatric first aid trained**

At Dinotots we ensure that all the staff dealing with your child are fully qualified in paediatric first aid. This ensures that your child can be given the right assistance, at the right time, in time.

Accidents do happen, we all know that, but having a fully trained staff member to assist, maintain calm and provide care and support to others in an emergency your child will get the immediate care they deserve.

Nobody ever knows when an emergency might happen, but with first aid trained staff, you know we'll be ready

- **Sterilising Units in the Baby rooms**

Our sterilising units ensure that items in the baby rooms can be fully sterilised, ensuring the ongoing safety for your baby. Items such as toys, blankets, small furnishings, loose parts etc as we know how easily they can become 'gooey'

- **REWARDS! REWARDS! REWARDS!**

We understand that choosing the right childcare provider for your little one is an extremely important decision for the family to make and also a massive stress and an emotional rollercoaster. We also understand that times are tough for the majority of the region right now, which is why we have introduced these reward systems to try to ease the burden somewhat

GOLDEN TICKET

On sign-up you will be presented with 2 golden tickets which can be distributed among your friends and family. If redeemed within the 30 days both you and your referred family will each receive £100.00

T&C apply, see ticket for full T&C

Refer a Friend

If you refer additional friends or family outside of the Golden ticket offer both you and your referred family will each receive £25.00 credit added to your account

T&C apply

PureGym Member offer

If you enrol your child with a Dinotots nursery and are a valid member of PureGym, and prove your membership, we will remove the need for you to pay the initial deposit and offer you a £25.00 credit into your account

T&C apply

OUR ROOMS

Dinobabies : 0 - 2 year olds

OUR BABY ROOM

At Dinotots we understand that babies develop imagination and creativity through play. Between birth and 12 months, your baby will be fascinated by people, by herself and by the world around her. Every experience is a new experience, a new adventure to explore

Between birth and 12 months, your baby becomes more interested in the world all the time. Play is the main way that babies develop, learn and explore the world.

We help babies explore through play, develop their imaginations. And as their imaginations develop, we grow this by experimenting with new sounds, sights, objects and activities.

At Dinotots we develop strategies through play to help them to solve simple problems, and they start being able to understand their own and other people's feelings.

Play gives babies different physical, sensory and cognitive experiences. These experiences build connections in the brain, which helps babies develop physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally. That's why play is like 'fireworks' going off in the brain.



WELCOME TO THE DINOTOTS GROUP



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

At Dinotots we use play to help develop your baby's imagination and creativity, activities we do include:

- Playing peekaboo with objects like scarves or tea towels.
- Exploring their vision and self-recognition using mirrors and mirrored objects.
- Singing songs and lullabies
- Showing pictures and books with different animals and people whilst talking about what he/she sees.
- Reading books and nursery rhymes using actions together.
- Making different styles of music and sound, banging buckets, shaking rice-filled jars and playing instruments
- We have treasure boxes within reach full of everyday items and natural objects for your baby to touch and feel.
- Tummy time so baby can see and explore the world
- Messy play using sand, mud, clay, playdough or paints.
- Cut up fruits for baby to explore new tastes and feelings

Open-ended play and structured play

At Dinotots we understand that open-ended play is a great development tool for your baby's imagination. Blocks and natural resources like pine cones, cinnamon sticks and bamboo rings are great for open-ended play, because your baby can use their own imagination and use them for all sorts of things.

OUR ROOMS continued

Triceratops : 2 - 3 year olds

OUR 2-3 YEAR OLD ROOM

The Second and third year of a child's life continues to be a period of rapid growth and development in the cognitive, motor, social and emotional and language domains. By understanding the norms of your child's development during this time with assessment of your child's progress, we will, with your assistance, ensure your child has the best start in life.

In our 2-Year-Old Rooms your little explorers can grow, learn, and play in a safe and nurturing environment designed specifically for toddlers. Our rooms are magical places where your child can take their first small steps towards independence, make new friends, and engage in a world of fun and educational activities.

Our 2-year-old rooms are bright and welcoming spaces filled with age-appropriate toys and furniture. The room is designed to inspire curiosity and encourage exploration. We have created distinct areas for different types of play and learning, including a home corner, a reading nook, a sensory area, a construction zone, and a creative arts table. The room is secure and set up to ensure your child's safety while allowing them the freedom to move and play.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Creative Play: We encourage creativity through drawing, painting, and crafting. These activities help develop fine motor skills and allow children to express their individuality.

Story Time: Our cozy reading nook is the perfect spot for storytime. We introduce children to the joy of books, fostering early literacy skills and a love for stories.

Sensory Exploration: Sensory bins and play materials help toddlers explore textures, shapes, and colours, which is essential for cognitive development.

Music and Movement: Through songs, dance, and simple instruments, children experience the joy of music while improving their coordination and rhythm.

Outdoor Play: We venture outside to our secure play area, in almost all weathers, so the children can run, climb, and use their imaginations in a natural setting, including splashing in puddles and building wonderful mud creations in our mud kitchen

Circle Time: A structured time for children to learn about days of the week, weather, and basic concepts through songs, games, and interactive discussions.



WELCOME TO THE DINOTOTS GROUP



OUR ROOMS continued

Raptors : 3 - 5 year olds

OUR 3 - 5 YEAR OLD ROOM

Our 3-5 Year Old Rooms at Dinotots are where adventure and learning go hand-in-hand in our vibrant and stimulating environments tailored for pre-schoolers. Our rooms are places of wonder and joy, providing your child with endless opportunities to learn, play, and grow as they prepare for the exciting journey to school.

The rooms are spacious and inviting areas, thoughtfully arranged to cater to the developing needs of pre-schoolers. Similar to the 2 year old room, our 3-5 year old rooms are sectioned into various learning areas including a literacy corner, a math and science zone, an art studio, and a dramatic play area. Our furniture and resources are age-appropriate and chosen to encourage independence, cooperation, and self-confidence.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Our curriculum is designed to foster a love for learning and to build the foundational skills needed for a smooth transition to school:

Literacy and Language: Interactive story sessions, engaging with phonics, and fun writing activities help children develop strong language and literacy skills.

Mathematics: Through games, puzzles, and hands-on activities, children grasp basic math concepts like counting, sorting, and patterning.

Science Exploration: Our curious learners are introduced to the wonders of science with simple experiments and nature-based activities that encourage questioning and discovery.

Artistic Expression: Our art studio allows children to express themselves through painting, sculpting, and a variety of other creative projects, fostering their imagination and fine motor skills.

Dramatic Play: The dramatic play area is a hit, where children can dress up, role-play, and learn through the power of their own imaginations.

Physical Activity: Daily outdoor play is essential for physical development, and our safe play area is perfect for running, jumping, climbing, and exploring.

Group Projects: Working on group projects helps to build teamwork skills and allows children to learn from one another.

The World around us: Though roleplay-based activities, trips to the local stores, invited guests from the local community and emergency services the children gain a vast and varied knowledge of other cultures, beliefs and the World both within and outside of their community



WELCOME TO THE DINOTOTS GROUP



OUR ROOMS continued

T-Rex : 5 year olds +

OUR AFTER-SCHOOL AND HOLIDAY CLUB

This is where the BIG Dinotots Room, a dedicated place for your child to explore and spend more time with friends from their own school, and mix with children from other schools in the local area. The Afterschool Club is a fun-filled and relaxing haven where school-aged children can unwind and enjoy themselves after a busy day at school. Our afterschool club is designed to cater to the interests and needs of children from the ages of 5 to 12, providing a friendly and supportive environment that feels like a home away from home.

The Dinotots Afterschool Club is a dedicated building offers a dynamic and flexible space that accommodates a variety of activities and interests. We have comfortable seating for relaxation and quiet time, a homework area equipped with supplies and resources for those who need to focus on school assignments, and plenty of open space for indoor games and physical activities.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Our afterschool program is structured to balance leisure, learning, and play:

Homework Support: We provide a quiet and supportive space for children to complete their homework with assistance from our caring staff when needed.

Creative Arts: Children can dive into their creative side with a wide array of art supplies and craft projects that encourage self-expression and creativity.

Physical Play: We know the importance of staying active, so we offer both structured and free play in our indoor and outdoor play areas, which include sports, games, and other physical activities.

Relaxation Time: After a long day at school, children can relax by reading, drawing, or engaging in quiet play, giving them time to decompress and recharge.

Group Games and Activities: Our staff lead group games, team-building exercises, and fun activities that promote cooperation, communication, and social skills.

Snack Time: We understand that children are often hungry after school, so we provide a nutritious snack to keep them energized for the afternoon activities. We cater to dietary restrictions and preferences, ensuring all children have a tasty and healthy option to enjoy.

Safety and Wellbeing: Safety is paramount in everything we do. Our staff are fully trained in safeguarding and first aid, and our club operates with strict safety protocols in place. We maintain a clean and well-organized environment, ensuring the health and safety of all our club members. Our Afterschool Club at Dinotots Nursery is more than just a place to spend the afternoon; it's where children can make new friends, learn new skills, and create lasting memories.



OUR APPROACH

We adopt a play-based learning approach that focuses on the individual needs and interests of each child. Our experienced caregivers are experts in toddler care, providing gentle guidance and support as your child navigates through their daily discoveries. We maintain an open line of communication with parents, offering regular updates on your child's progress and memorable moments.



DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION FOR SUCCESS

The staff at Dinotots make a real difference; we support, coach and mentor each other to ensure the same level of expertise is delivered by everyone. Our team strive to be the best we can be through continuous professional development and ongoing evaluation, reflection and assessment. We are a family. We want the best from all our staff, we care, we take care of our people without hindering their growth and ensure they have a voice. With our brilliant, hand-picked team, we guarantee the pathway to successful education and development of your children



OUR CHILDREN

We recognise that each child is an individual, with individual needs and individual learning abilities. Together with this special uniqueness they also bring their own set of qualities and challenges; At Dinotots we listen, respond, respect and support our children.



OUR FAMILIES

The advanced relationships that we build with our families are essential; through effective 2-way communication and trust we unite your family's expert knowledge of your children with our early years expertise to produce the very best outcomes for all children

OUR APPROACH continued

THE CURIOSITY APPROACH ACCREDITATION

As part of our daily approach we are investing time, resources and passion into an accreditation called The Curiosity Approach. The Curiosity Approach Accreditation is something that we are working on for, the foreseeable future in partnership with our staff, our families and the Curiosity Approach team themselves. We are embarking on this journey to promote awe and wonder in early childhood, it is a pedagogy that inspires children to see beauty in the random & unusual, to ignite creativity in educators & children.

WHAT DOES THAT ALL MEAN TO THE NURSERIES?

An example of this is where we have introduced real tea-sets in the home corner. We have introduced metal teapots for younger children to explore and china teapots for our older children. These different materials, to previous plastic tea sets, broaden children's learning – they have different textures, sounds, feels, smells, tastes, resistances, weights and feel to them. This also teaches children to handle them with care and respect. We have found by introducing changes such as these that children's engagement with items is much more involved, sustained and REAL – care is taken not to break things, to put things back when they have been played with, children talk to each other about how to look after the materials and when things do get broken we show children how to safely clear up whilst learning valuable lessons about taking care of things and looking after things properly.

WHAT IS THE CURIOSITY APPROACH?

"The Curiosity Approach is a modern-day approach to Early Childhood, taking parts from Reggio, Steiner, Te Whāriki and adding a sprinkle of Montessori. It is a beautiful recipe book of wonderful ingredients, carefully mixed together with experience, passion and a love of Early Childhood. It's baked together in a mindful oven of loveliness that needs thoughtful practitioners and professionals to be mentally present, thankful and forever curious about their career with little children". This approach, and accreditation, builds on these well known and established early years theorists in providing children with an environment, experiences, activities and resources which foster their in-built need to explore, try things out and engage in a high level of sustained shared thinking. What we are working on with this approach enhances the environments and resources that we already have in the nursery. We are introducing resources that are "real" and authentic to inspire awe and wonder and to enable children to handle items that are made of natural materials to gain skills and a level of understanding to support their learning and development at a deeper level.

MORE INFORMATION

What else happens that I may wish to know about?

- **Our Team**

The dedication and expertise embodied by our Dinotots team are fundamental to our exceptional standard of care. Our team is deeply committed to fostering individual connections with each child, recognising and celebrating the unique qualities that make every child special. To ensure the safety and well-being of our children, all team members undergo thorough screening via Enhanced DBS checks. We value and invest in our team, acknowledging their unwavering dedication to our nursery and your children. Collaborating with external training providers, we actively support our staff's professional growth across all aspects of their roles. Through leading by example, our management team inspires and motivates our staff, fostering a culture of hard work that creates an exemplary work environment and enables them to deliver outstanding care.

- **Toothbrushing Program**

As an integral part of our updated curriculum aimed at promoting oral health, Dinotots continues to offer a supervised tooth brushing program for children. Our dedicated practitioners have undergone a comprehensive training program led by dental professionals and a tooth brushing supervisor to ensure they are equipped to oversee the children's tooth brushing routine. It is crucial for both parents and children to maintain regular tooth brushing habits to eliminate bacteria and prevent plaque buildup. Teaching children the importance of proper tooth brushing from an early age is paramount in establishing this essential practice as part of their daily routine. We understand the significance of guiding children as they learn, comprehend, and refine their tooth brushing skills, and we are committed to providing the necessary support in this important aspect of their development

- **Mealtimes**

Our team of highly experienced staff are dedicated to accommodating all dietary needs and allergies. We meticulously plan and prepare well-balanced meals and snacks on-site using fresh ingredients from local suppliers. To promote healthy eating, we ensure that each child has access to at least 5 portions of fresh fruits and vegetables daily from our self-service station within the rooms.

Meal times provide an opportunity for your child to explore a diverse range of foods in a relaxed setting with their regular caregivers. Our menus, which are readily available on our website, are continuously reviewed, and we welcome input from both children and parents. Additionally, we often incorporate celebratory foods linked to various cultural festivals to introduce new culinary experiences to your child.

Beyond nourishment, meal times also serve as a platform for your child to develop essential social skills. Eating wholesome, nutritious food not only sustains your child's energy levels for longer, but also enhances their ability to concentrate. We actively involve children in food-related activities, such as baking and cooking, to educate them about the origins of the food they consume. Furthermore, your child may have the opportunity to cultivate seasonal fruits and vegetables in our nursery garden or in pots, or even gather produce from local allotments (with permission!), adding an extra layer of excitement and engagement to meal times.

OUR SETTINGS



DINOTOTS CHILDCARE

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CRAMLINGTON

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DINOTOTS PLAYGROUP

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DINOTOTS GROUP

PUTTING THE CARE BACK INTO CHILDCARE



Dino Tots Childcare
2020/21 WINNER
Childcare Centre
of the Year



www.thecuriosityapproach.com



a member of



Putting the 'care' back into Childcare

"TEACHERS WHO LOVE TEACHING, TEACH CHILDREN TO LOVE LEARNING."
— ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN