



Sam

Butterfly House Day Nursery

40 Norfolk Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex. BN17 5HE

Tel: 01903 732113

Proprietor: Mrs Amanda Barnard-Grove.



Ref LU/79/18/PL

10th May 2018

Dear Mr Wood,

I am writing to support my application to increase numbers from 33 to 45 at Butterfly House Day Nursery. We have been established on our current site since 2004 providing early years care and education to the local community and a little further afield to include Ferring, Barnham & Bognor Regis. My husband & I have worked very hard together with my team to provide an environment that enables children to reach their full potential; the nursery has been part of the 2yr funding initiative in the Littlehampton area for deprived children.

I have achieved an "Outstanding" grade from Ofsted for the last 2 inspections, and since 2004 have had a very good relationship with my close neighbours. To date there has only been one minor complaint that I am aware of from a flat in St Winefrides Road.

Since our last Ofsted in 2016 and due to the wording of our certificate "The registered person can provide childcare on non-domestic premises on the Early Years Register", there is no limited but I must be able to convey to an inspector how I have covered numbers attending to ensure health & safety. I have enrolled some extra children up to 41, which I acknowledge was a breach with Arun District Council and only came to light following a recent audit, and was for a short period of time (3 months). It is so hard to say "no" to desperate parents who have been unable to find high quality flexible childcare, this has also proved that the business can remain viable through these difficult times. During that time there hasn't been any complaints from neighbours and I do ask parents repeatedly to be mindful of parking respectfully in Norfolk Road, not across driveways.

I have requested this small increase as in the past we have had a high demand for places due to our reputation within the local community, in the last 14 years we have supported parents and over 500 children to achieve their very best with many of them achieving higher than expected goals by the end of the reception year.

Also due to the ever rising costs that small business owners now face to include increased rates, minimum wage, pensions and utility bills to ensure that the business remains viable. In addition it would also enable me to provide more availability for families wishing to take up the 30 hrs free entitlement for children aged 3-5 yrs to enable parents to work more hours to meet the needs of their family circumstances.

I have looked at the sufficiency survey for the area and note that some early years providers and local childminders have decided to close, I am also aware that due to the building programme within the local area that there will be an increased need for childcare to include supporting families of children with additional needs together with offering more places for funded children aged 2yrs from the local community.

West Sussex County Council currently has 1395 (correct as 1 April 2017) Early Years and Childcare settings with 28,828 places in total. There has been a net decrease of 17 providers across the monitoring period; however there is an increase in 5 places in total, due to providers expanding and increasing places.

TOTAL NUMBER				
Setting Type	Summer Term 2016	Autumn Term 2016	Spring Term 2017	Year End Net gain/loss
Early Years (group settings)	430	422	422	- 8
Childminders	755	737	726	-29
Breakfast Club	68	75	77	+9
Out of School Club	98	101	104	+6
Holiday Playscheme	67	65	66	-1
TOTAL	1418	1400	1395	-23

Staff are encouraged to walk or cycle whenever possible, many of them choose to park in adjoining roads leaving more room for residents / parents. Many parents walk although I acknowledge that there can be a little chaos between 9.00 – 9.25am and between 4.00 – 4.25pm parents are encouraged to park further away from Norfolk Road, however this does not last long and is no more than the amount of cars that are routinely parked all weekend due to the number of flats in Norfolk Road and considering that most households have 2 cars now. I feel that it is less than traffic encountered near to local schools that form part of a residential area.

I hope that you will grant this increase so that this excellent nursery can continue to provide jobs and support for the local community along with enabling our next generation to have the very best care and education in preparation for their next journey of life at primary school.

Your sincerely,

Mrs Amanda Barnard-Grove
Proprietor