

# Gilderdale nursery and forest school

Information and welcome pack

*"The best classroom and the richest cupboard is  
roofed only by the sky" Margaret McMillan*

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UPDATED March 2024

Information OFSTED REGISTRATION NUMBER: 12596884

## Our Nursery & approach

At Gilderdale we follow a range of approaches and ideas from theorists and research. Reggio Emilia has had a big influence on how we deliver our teaching to the children. Within this, it also recognises the importance of the environment and how this has a big impact on their development, well-being and learning. We also use the ideas and promote the well-established Scandinavian outdoor and forest kindergartens approaches in our nursery, giving the children the chance to learn through unique opportunities and explore no matter what the weather

## Our Ethos statement.

Our ethos and approach for this setting focuses on the children, treating them as leaders of their own learning. It will follow a forest school ethos approach, where the children are always at the heart of what we do. We rely mostly on outdoor experiences and play, developing risk taking, resilience, confidence and self-esteem. Through authentic and natural experiences the children will have the freedom to explore and investigate using open ended resources that spark creativity and imagination. The nursery will provide as many opportunities as possible, through rich, inviting and homely environments. Most importantly, we will provide a safe space for children where they feel at ease, comfortable and loved. At Gilderdale nursery the children will take part in a range of exciting and challenging activities, set up by skilled practitioners that know each child individually. We follow a hands on approach where the children will take part in lots of real-life experiences and lots of physical play. We strive to ensure that every child reaches their

## Our forest school ethos

Forest school is an innovative, educational and imaginative process that offers every learner an exciting opportunity to develop, progress and achieve. Through our forest school sessions, ALL of our children achieve. The holistic approach of forest school has been embedded into our practice, developing children's social and emotional skills as well as encouraging freedom and positive well-being. Within Forest school at Gilderdale Nursery the children engage in a wide range of activities through a 'hands on' approach, in a very special and unique environment. They learn new skills by using tools, building dens and exploring the natural world around them. Creating lots of risk takers and independent children. The forest school way allows ALL of our children to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and become independent because of the exciting, challenging and inspirational woodland experiences. The children develop respect, care and concern for nature through the opportunities given and their own self exploration. Forest school gives children the freedom to take risks, challenge themselves, initiate their own learning and take ownership. But most importantly, it provides the children with opportunities to enjoy themselves! Being in the outdoors exposes children to natural elements which supports their development in all areas of learning.

What we get up to..... Woodwork (with real tools!), exploring, nature walks, farm fun, risky play, messy play, Forest school sessions, art with nature, clay modelling, creative modelling, outdoor cooking, sand/water play, mud kitchen cooking! den building, bird watching, gardening, growing, dancing, singing, music sessions, sensory sessions, climbing, building and much more!

## Our nursery family



### *Becca, Nursery manager.*

Becca is the nursery manager at Gilderdale and has many years' experience in early years. Becca gained her BA honours degree in childhood, youth and early years after completing her level 3 diploma in childcare and education. Most recently, Becca has completed her level 3 forest school training and level 3 Special educational needs co-ordinator. All of which has inspired her practice and made her reflect on her approach with the children in her care. Becca is passionate about outdoor learning, speech and language and imaginative play. She promotes a love for learning in the outdoors by encouraging children to explore in all weathers, having a positive outlook on the day- no matter the weather. Becca loves to follow an in the moment approach, bringing magic, curiosity and wonder into her

teaching through fun and exciting activities. As well as this, Becca loves to teach children life skills such as gardening and cooking both indoors and on the campfire, she promotes independence through risky play and real experiences like using tools and giving the children opportunity to lead their own learning. Becca is a key person in our setting, working with children of all ages. She has experience of working with SEND and takes pride in creating an inclusive environment so that every child is given the chance to thrive. Becca lives on the farm beside nursery with husband Dan (Farmer Dan to the children) and their two children Sam & Nora.

#### Qualifications and training

BA honours in childhood, youth and early years.

Level 3 in childcare and education,

Level 3 forest school leader.

Level 3 SENDCo

Becca is responsible for parents as partners, EYFS, health and safety, safeguarding and behaviour management within the nursery. Becca is the senco and safeguarding officer for the setting. Becca is trained in SEND, safeguarding, child protection, Talk boost, portage training, food hygiene, fire safety, FGM, prevent, hygiene leadership, baby room training and first aid.

### *Amanda, Deputy Manager.*

Amanda works at Gilderdale as our deputy manager. And after working with children for around 17 years in a range of settings and roles she had gained lots of experience. Amanda started her career working in sure start centres; running mother and toddler groups, then went onto complete her level 3 diploma in early years. Amanda is passionate about early years education as it forms the basis for all future learning. she loves observing children become happy, confident learners to reaching their

full potential as individuals. Amanda works closely with Becca, the SENCO to support children with SEND. Amanda enjoys using in the moment planning to support children's learning. Alongside this, she loves to create a nurturing and fully inclusive learning environment Amanda has grown up in the countryside and developed a love for the outdoors from a young age. No matter what the weather, if there is a pile of mud to squelch in, Amanda will be jumping in it with the children!



#### Qualifications and training

Amanda holds a level 3 qualification in pre-school practice. She is our fire safety officer and is trained in safeguarding, child protection, food hygiene, first aid ,FGM, Prevent. Amanda is currently furthering her knowledge of SEND through a range of training.

Amanda is currently working towards her Level 3 SENCO training.

## *Charlotte, Nursery Practitioner*

Charlotte is passionate about everything and anything outdoors. Growing up and living on a farm has developed a love for animals and nature which Charlotte loves to include in her activities and practice with the children. She can't wait to get stuck in to outdoor learning and risky play by exploring our beautiful outdoor spaces. She is very creative and loves to paint, draw and create artwork. She is always thinking of lots of fun ideas for the children to help ignite their imaginations. She believes that there is nothing more wonderful than a child's imagination and loves to help and give them the tools to make their ideas and dreams



come to life! She's very passionate about healthy eating and learning where our food has come from. She especially loves to use food that we have home grown in our allotment and create meals with the children that we can be proud to eat!

#### Qualifications and training

Level 3 Early years educator  
Specific baby room training  
Safeguarding level 3 (DSL)  
Food hygiene  
First aid  
Fire safety  
FGM & Prevent  
Child protection





## *Hannah, Nursery Practitioner*

Hannah is our nursery practitioner working with children throughout the nursery. Hannah has a range of experience in different ages from new born to school aged children. She has worked with children in different settings for four years, during this time Hannah enjoyed working overseas in America as an au pair. Hannah loves in the moment planning and enjoys the freedom to follow the children's interests each day. She loves to watch the children lead in their own play and extends this through lovely set ups. She loves to be outdoors and has hobbies of walking and hikes. Hannah also loves to travel to new places and explore her

surroundings, which she brings into her practice with the children, encouraging them to explore the world around them through the great outdoors. Hannah is very excited for the many adventures to be had with the children! Hannah has grown up on a farm and she is an animal lover, and shares her knowledge on this with the children.

Qualifications and training.

Hannah has a level 3 qualification in childcare and education. Is trained in Specific baby room training, safeguarding, food hygiene, first aid, FGM, prevent. Hannah is furthering her knowledge of SEND through in house support and CPD.

Hannah is currently on maternity leave.

## *Suzi, Baby room practitioner*



Suzi works within our ladybird room, supporting children under 2 years. Suzi is a key person to a group of children and works hard to build trusting and caring relationships with our youngest children.

Suzi has lots of experience in working with children of all ages- most recently in outdoor adventure. She brings lots of fantastic ideas and new challenges to our outdoor area and really enjoys creating swings, ropes and pulley systems for the children to explore. Suzi is very creative and will usually be seen doing something messy or art related with the babies each day. Suzi is a mam to her lovely Flo and so brings a natural maternal and nurturing presence to her role which our babies love her for. Suzi is

excited to learn more about SEND and early years in general.

Qualifications and training

Level 3 practitioner

First aid

Food hygiene

FGM

Safeguarding level 3  
Specific baby room training



### Elsa, baby room practitioner

Elsa is currently a level 2 practitioner and studying to complete her level 3 in childcare and early years. She loves in the moment planning and following the children's interests.

Elsa loves being outside and getting messy! You will find her marching through the mud with the kids on a long walk, looking out for signs of animals and listening to see what birds they can hear! Elsa is very kind, patient and nurturing with all the children, she spends most of her days with the ladybirds in the baby room and in the garden. She loves anything creative and making sensory play for

the babies and older children.

Elsa is interested in furthering her knowledge and understanding of Special educational needs, with this she is undertaking training and working closely with Becca to do some in house CPD.

#### Qualifications and training

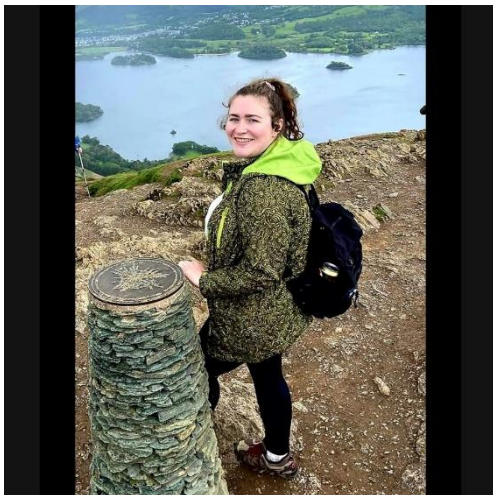
First aid

Safeguarding

Food hygiene

Specific baby room training

Prevent & FGM



### Kate, nursery practitioner

Kate has recently joined Gilderdale nursery as a pre-school practitioner. She has completed her level 3 childcare and early years diploma. Kate loves playing in the moment with the children and helping them develop the amazing imaginative ideas their minds come up with!

Kate loves getting messy and getting involved in all the fun, working in childcare you have to be the silliest version of yourself, Kate strives to spend each day in Gilderdale doing just that and giving the children fantastic experiences they can learn from each day.

"Children are truly amazing and it is an absolutely joy to see them grow, play and achieve their milestones. Working with children isn't always easy but knowing that I am able to help them achieve their full potential, making sure they feel happy about themselves and seeing their faces light up is the best part of my job."

Kate is currently on maternity leave.

#### Qualifications and training

food hygiene

safeguarding

FGM & prevent

First aid



## Khloe Nursery Assistant

Khloe Joined the Gilderdale team in January 2024, after a long career elsewhere she decided to follow a passion and interest of hers in Early years.

Khloe is passionate about children's mental health and is enthusiastic about developing this interest. Khloe loves researching about child development and after having her two boys, this became a huge interest to her. Something that she would now like to progress further.

Khloe is a key person within the nursery, working predominately in the baby room. Khloe is looking forward to starting her Early years Educator

level 3 qualification with us later this year.

### Qualifications and training

FGM

Safeguarding L2 & L3

Food hygiene

Manual handling

*“The manager is passionate about her role and puts a strong emphasis on staff well-being. She has constructed a strong management team around her to help drive forward the setting's vision for high-quality inclusive provision. Staff express they feel valued and well supported in developing their roles. This results in an enthusiastic united team of hard working staff, who share the same values and are committed to providing high-quality care and education to children.” Ofsted 2023.*

## A Typical Day at Gilderdale

Always subject to change based on the children and their wants/needs and the age groups.

8am-

Drop offs and breakfast

8am-9am.

Free play.

9am-We welcome more children and start our day.

Children will have the opportunity to share what they would like to do that day. Our honeybees and butterflies get ready to go straight outside, where we have a little welcome time in our fire circle. Our ladybirds have free flow access- their morning routine is subject to the needs of the babies in on each day.

9:15am-Wild and Free time!

We will stay in our garden, go to the woods or for a walk. Children have the opportunity to use natural resources, the environment, and their imagination to engage in free play. Highly qualified staff will be on call to enhance and develop the children's choice of learning opportunities. Morning snack will be had during this session.

12:00-1pm Food and rest

Handwashing, followed by lunch and story time. Children can have a rest indoors if they choose to.

1pm- Wild and free time

More exploring outdoors and indoors- if we haven't been for a walk in the morning, we usually head out in the afternoon.

2pm Together time

Snack time either indoors, outdoors in the woods or a picnic on our walk, reflection of our day, stories or songs are shared.

2.30-3pm Wild and free time!

More outdoor play before some children head home.

4-4:30pm tea-time and Rest

This can be indoors or outdoors depending on the weather and children attending.

5pm-Goodbye time

Time to say goodbye-probably a little muddier than when we arrived.

*Routines are subject to change and can be dependent on the weather conditions, the needs of the children in attendance at that time and the interests of the children. However, we do try to keep to these routines as best as we can for consistency for the children. Meal times are the same each day.*

## Nursery rooms and information

Although we have 'rooms' for the children in our nursery, we work in harmony together. Bringing all ages of children as one. We have separate routines and activities, but we work as a whole- that way all staff know all children and are able to build up those strong, secure relationships. We also do not have set ages for room moves- we do this individually depending on their own unique development. This allows the transition to be seamless within nursery.

## Ladybirds 6months- 2years (guideline)

If you are looking for a unique setting to take care of your baby, look no further. Our Baby room is where the roots of innate curiosity and learning will form, making way for adventure in our beautiful, vast outdoor environment. We provide high quality, natural resources allowing children to explore using all of their senses.

Our most important resource is our highly qualified and experienced staff who will be on hand to provide love and care for your child. Our emphasis is on providing a home from home, relaxed environment where we are able to support your child's unique development. The baby room will have its own private free-flow access to a separate outdoor space, specially created for babies- where they may even have naps!



## Honeybees & Butterflies 2-5 years

We have 1 large nursery room in our converted barn, where all of the children can play, learn and discover. We have a separate space for the Honeybees and butterflies to ensure their learning can be extended, adapted and furthered to their development. The pre-school indoor space is a vast, open, and accessible area. Where the children are given the chance to explore with real objects and open-ended items, encouraging imagination, curiosity, and critical thinking.

This space will be warm, inviting and cosy. Making the children feel at home and loved whilst learning. The space will include a kitchen area, where the children can help to prepare part of their lunch. The indoor preschool space will be comforting, where the children can relax and make their own choices.

The outdoor space is always available to the children, operating as a free-flow setting. We are, however usually based in the outdoors throughout the day. The children have access to our large natural garden where they can climb, attend the allotment, explore in the mud kitchen and much more! We also have access to a beautiful woodland area, just a short walk up the hill from nursery, where the children take part in forest school sessions daily.

## Holiday clubs

We provide holiday care for children aged 2-5 years within the nursery. These sessions run during the Westmorland and Furness school holidays and are subject to availability. Our prices for these sessions are below as per our usual rates for children aged 2-5years within the nursery. Full registration forms will be required for children to attend.

We run forest school clubs for children aged 5-11years. These are planned on an ad-hoc basis and information about sessions available are shared on our Facebook page.

## Fees and sessions

### March 2023- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Under 2 session & Fees	
8am-5pm	£63
8am-1pm	£35
Any additional hours	£8

2 to 4 year old sessions & Fees	
8am-5pm	£55.80
8am-1pm	£31
Any additional hours	£8

All our fees are inclusive of meals, snacks, and drinks.

Use of our sensory room, forest school sessions and our special farm nursery experiences are all included in your fees.

Funded sessions (2,3 & 4 Year old)  
September 2023-August 2024

- Funded places will be accessible via a 'stretched' or 'term time only' offer at Gilderdale.
- For those that are entitled to the full allocation the stretched option equates to 23 hours per week over the 49 weeks Gilderdale is open, Those with 15 hours per week this equates to around 11 hours per week over the 49 weeks open.
- We will continue to offer the option of 'splitting' funded hours between settings.
- Funded session times will only be available via a full day 8am -5pm or via a half day morning session 8am -1pm. 9am – 3pm options are available.
- We will only be offering a limited number of funded spaces and encourage parents and families to communicate their intention regarding funded places with us at the earliest opportunity.
- Food costs are applicable on funded sessions, or if you prefer you can provide your own.
- An optional £2.00 consumable cost will be added per session.
- Additional hours booked on top of funded hours will be charged at a rate of £7.00

### Snacks and meals

All staff who prepare snacks and drinks have sufficient food hygiene training. There will be occasions where we do outdoor cooking on the fire (hot dogs, pancakes and other yummy snacks!) Please note: Healthy snacks and water are available throughout the day.

During the summer months it would be great if you could send your child with a named water bottle for our forest school sessions.

We create a 3 week menu- which is subject to change weekly, we make all of our meals and snacks with allergies and preferences in mind. Our menu can be found on our notice board in the entrance hall.

### Babies and weaning

The Nursery understands and respects that all babies and children develop differently and at different paces, and it can be a worrying and confusing time for parents/carers during this time. We aim to make this transition as smooth as possible by ensuring our key persons work closely with you to discuss any dietary requirements your child may have and make appropriate provisions to accommodate any additional needs parents may have.

The introduction of new foods is a gradual process. For babies weaning from breast milk or formula, our nursery will steam, grill and puree fruit, meats such as chicken and fish, and vegetables at a consistency that is suitable for the baby's feeding needs. We will help babies become familiar with a great range of tastes and textures through to the beginning of self-feeding. Key persons will aim to help babies and toddlers progress toward solid food and encourage all children to experience a variety of different foods by creating opportunities for them to taste and feel different textures of food e.g. via food tasting activities.

### Breast feeding and formula

We welcome parents who are breast-feeding their children into the nursery and make every effort to accommodate their needs. We can also accept breast milk that has been expressed and are able to store this milk as advised by the parent. We will discuss your child's individual needs, to ensure that they are met. Feeds will be prepared as and when they are required by the babies and not as part of the nursery routine. A suitable sterilised bottle, which should be clearly labelled with your baby's

name, will be used for feeds. Parents should bring the formula into nursery in purpose-made containers, which allows the staff to measure out each feed individually or provide a tin of formula. Both should be clearly labelled with the child's name and brought into the nursery along with the pre-sterilised bottle, which should also be clearly labelled with the child's name.

### Settling in sessions

Following your initial visit, we recommend 1-2 (dependent on age), settling in sessions where you accompany your child along to a short session (preferably on one of the days/times you have requested for your child to attend), to get to know the nursery environment, the other children, and the staff.

This is particularly important for becoming familiar with our outdoor environment where your child will spend a lot of their time. This session will allow us to gather information from you about your child's likes/dislikes and any routines they may have. There is no charge for settling in sessions (6 hours).

If after your settling in sessions you feel your child would benefit from another settling in session, please speak to a member of staff who will be able to arrange this for you. However, there will be a charge for extra settling in sessions.

We offer 6 free hours of settling in time before your sessions start.

### Working with you!

We strongly believe that developing excellent working relationships with the families of the children we care for is of utmost importance to ensure their well-being and progress. We closely monitor your child's progress throughout their time with us, and we want to share as much information with you as possible. We will keep a record of your child's developments and learning experiences through their very special and unique 'Learning Journey'. You are free to add to this learning journey and we welcome any information you can give us. This might be you sharing a 'wow' moment from home, a piece of artwork your child has created away from nursery, or photographs of their experiences. We encourage the children to take pride and ownership of their special record which they can access to look through if they wish. We ensure all of our staff are friendly and approachable, and if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to discuss them with a member of the team or the manager if you so wish. Your child will be allocated a key person who we hope you and your child will be able to build a strong relationship with. We also aim to hold parents evenings during the year which is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress. We look forward to working with you 😊

### Communication

We understand the importance of effective communication and value our parents and families wish. We strive to ensure that you feel valued, welcomed and safe in our nursery and that you can talk to us at any time, we are here to support you and your child. As part of our curriculum, we will be completing learning journeys and assessments for your child. Where we keep you up to date with their individual learning. Along with these we will have regular parent catch ups and workshops. Your child will be given a specific key person, they will build a relationship with your child, ensuring they meet every individual need and build parent partnerships with you.

### Dropping off/collecting children

We are very lucky in that we have our own car park for use by both staff and families. However, it is likely that this car park may get busy during drop off/collection times. The car park does not have marked out bays, so please take care when parking during these times ensuring you make the best use of the spaces available allowing as many families as possible to drop off and collect with ease.

Please avoid obstructing other vehicles whenever possible, however, please trust that if anyone does block you in, they are likely to only be a few minutes. We thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Please note: you are fully responsible for your child/ren until you have left them in our care. Please take care in the car park area and beware of the main road located to the side of it.

Children will only be allowed to leave with an authorised named person. Children will not be allowed to leave with anyone who is or appears to be under the age of 18. In emergency situations, we will allow an unauthorised person to collect your child with verbal permission from yourself, as long as they have photographic identification on them and they have a 'password' give by you.

Under no circumstances should any adult try to enter the nursery premises. Please wait for a member of staff to let you in and out. Please also do not let other parents/carers in and out.

Collection time- At least one member of staff will be available at collection time and will be in charge of 'hand overs'. Please do not leave the nursery until you have spoken to this member of staff to ensure that any important messages can be passed on to you. Most information will be sent to you via our 'Family' app before you collect and you are responsible for checking this regularly. Collection times can get quite busy with lots of parents/carers arriving at once, so we thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. We will always endeavour to not keep you waiting too long. For more detailed information you will need to call the nursery landline to discuss any queries regarding your child's time at nursery.

### Illness

Children suffering from any infectious disease must be kept at home. Please call the nursery land line number or Family to report your child's absence (01434 381827), emails, texts and Facebook messages are not always accessible.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, you must keep them off from nursery for at least 48 hours since the last bout and when all symptoms have completely cleared. We have a detailed list of common infectious diseases and incubation periods available to view at the nursery. If your child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, we will contact you and ask you to arrange collection as soon as possible. All staff are first aid trained and we will be able to take care of your child until you arrive. In an emergency, the nursery manager or designated person in charge reserves the right to arrange for your child to be taken to hospital immediately if this is deemed necessary.

### Policies and Procedures

As an Ofsted registered nursery, we have a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to ensure your child's safety and well-being at all times. The policies describe our philosophy and the work we do at Gilderdale. Our policies are under constant review so that we can continue to strive to provide the best possible care for your child/ren and that we meet the needs of the families we work with. We welcome your interest in and comments about these policies so please feel free to pass them in to a member of staff. Full details of policies and procedures are available to view at the nursery upon request.

A core policy pack along with a parent contract will be sent via email or printed as a hard copy on reserving your child's place with us.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any other details, please get in touch for a nursery viewing or email us at [gilderdalenursery@outlook.com](mailto:gilderdalenursery@outlook.com) or phone us on 01434381827



*We hope you found this information useful and would love to have you join our nursery family!*

*Thank you,  
The nursery team*