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Ofsted Registered Day Nursery

(Ofsted Early Years Register URN 221 580)

Open 7.45am to 5.30pm

Monday to Friday

Sawtry Day Nursery
Sawtry Village Academy
Fen Lane,
Sawtry,
Cambs.
PE28 5TQ



Welcome

Welcome to Sawtry Day Nursery, a purpose built, fully air-conditioned Nursery set within the grounds of Sawtry Village Academy. We are well positioned for parents who work along the A1 and A14 corridors. We provide outstanding quality care for approximately 40 children from 6 weeks to school age. The Nursery is registered with Ofsted and is one of only a small number of nurseries that has consistently achieved the highest judgement available from Ofsted since 2004. At the last inspection in June 2025 we were once again awarded the highest judgement of 'Outstanding' and are extremely proud of our glowing Ofsted report. The nursery prides itself in continually evaluating and updating practice, employing staff of a high calibre, and has a strong focus on training and qualifications. As a result we have an excellent reputation both locally and throughout the County.

During the pre-school years, knowledge of ourselves, relationships, the world around us, language and mathematical skills are learnt through play opportunities. Our aim is to provide a challenging, caring and emotionally secure environment where children are given the opportunity to discover and explore; to express and create; to develop and excel. Our well trained and highly experienced staff will provide developmentally appropriate activities to promote your child's physical, intellectual, emotional, and social skills and to establish the foundations for a lifelong love of learning.

Mission Statement:

We believe that every child in the community should have the chance to achieve their full potential and develop the fundamental skills for a life long interest in learning within a secure and caring environment.

We aim to support parents/main carers in their role as the prime educators of their child.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage is how the Government and those working with and supporting children describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

Four guiding principles shape our practice as an early years setting. These are:

A unique child – every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;

Positive relationships – children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;

Enabling environments – children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers;

Learning and development – all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, develop and learn in different ways and at different rates, but all areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected.

The framework is intended to provide a consistent but flexible approach to care and learning and ensure that each child will receive a quality early years experience that supports their development, care and learning needs, but most importantly should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These are:

- **Communication and language** involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations
- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are also helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food
- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in the following 4 specific areas:

- **Literacy** involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measure
- **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology, and the environment
- **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Your child's key person will take responsibility to make sure that they provide activities that are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Nursery Admissions

Sawtry Day Nursery is open to children from every family in the community. On request, we will provide nursery information in an alternative language or format.

The nursery often has a substantial waiting list. The allocation of places will depend on availability within each room.

To ensure a smooth transition into Nursery life, your child's new key person will organise a first visit to start gathering lots of information about your child's likes, dislikes and care needs ready for starting nursery. We will generally start with a one-hour session and gradually increase the length of the sessions. The whole process of settling in will be dependent on the needs of both the child and the parents/carers. If there are tears, please rely on the advice of your key person and other members of the team, who are here to support you and provide an emotionally secure base for your child.

Fundamental British Values

Sawtry Day Nursery is an inclusive setting. Our staff have a shared understanding of fundamental British values and how these are promoted and valued in the nursery. Our staff would be supported in challenging any discriminatory remarks from other staff, parents or children.

Fundamental British values have been separated into 4 headings. We have unpicked what each of these headings means to us and how these are supported & promoted in every day nursery life.

Democracy

We want the children to feel valued & respected. We actively seek out children's views and listen to these. Staff act as good role models for the children and actively listen to one another. We promote choice in the nursery and the children are able to make choices about what activities they do, what time they have snack & what they eat. This is promoted visually to allow all children to participate. Children are expected to respect & listen to each other's views. We work with the children on different emotions and how we can successfully manage our emotions & express our feelings.

The rule of law

Our staff have high expectations of children. We have rules at the setting and the children take part in the formulation of these rules and are supported to follow them. We have a comprehensive Behaviour Management policy, we use positive strategies to handle any conflict and praise and acknowledge desirable behaviour. We do a lot of work with the children around right and wrong and understanding our own and other's behaviour. We promote our rules in a visual way and support the children. We discuss the rules outside our setting and when possible support this with visits from local police, ambulance and fire brigade. We also focus on the skills around road safety.

Individual liberty

We support the children to make their own choices in a safe and supportive environment. We encourage the children to take managed risks and explore new activities and experiences to improve self-confidence and self-esteem. We welcome all children to the setting and encourage them to have a positive self-image. We display positive non-stereotypical pictures around the nursery and discuss and celebrate our similarities and differences. We teach empathy for all with activities including puppets, story time & group discussion.

Mutual respect & tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We celebrate our diverse, rich cultural and religious society and promote mutual respect. Adults sensitively challenge any discriminatory remarks. We celebrate our similarities and differences and celebrate relevant festivals and holy days that reflect the diversity of the setting. The children have a chance to try a diverse range of foods and listen to different types of music at the setting. We value all children and differentiate our activities to ensure an equality of opportunity.

Special Educational Needs

Sawtry Day Nursery is committed to the integration of all children in its care. The Nursery believes that by early identification of additional individual needs and by taking proactive steps alongside parents/carers, other statutory professionals and agencies, all children should be able to play a full, active and equal part in the Nursery's activities.

Effective Parental Partnerships

We aim to work closely and create a genuine partnership with parents.

Each child has a key person who plays an essential role in supporting the emotional well-being of the children in their key group. In doing so they take responsibility for those aspects of your child's day that have the greatest impact on your child's well-being, learning, and understanding.

We share information with each parent/carer at the beginning and end of each session and maintain written daily records.

We use an online registration, invoicing, messaging and online journal system called Parent Admin so that we have just one secure and convenient place with the following applications:

View & Download

- ✓ Your Booking Pattern
- ✓ Your Monthly Invoice
- ✓ Your Payment History
- ✓ Your child's daily diary
- ✓ Observations and photos
- ✓ Information
- ✓ Newsletters

Update & Confirm

- ✓ Collection Passwords
- ✓ Emergency Contacts
- ✓ Medical Records
- ✓ Personal Information
- ✓ Permissions & Consents
- ✓ Wow moments at home

We also have a Facebook page where we share posts and information that parents may find interesting, however the preferred and most effective way to communicate with us is in person, phone, email (info@sawtrydaynursery.co.uk) or message using Parent Admin.

If you require hard copies of any of our documentation, please let us know.

We offer parent consultation meetings by appointment throughout the year so that you have frequent opportunities to discuss your child's development with key staff in more depth.

We welcome all contributions from parents whether these are resources, information, photos and comments on their child's experiences and learning at home and out and about.

We also welcome your views on how we can improve our service.

Complaints

Sawtry Day Nursery is committed to providing quality childcare. We accept that sometimes things do not happen as intended. In such circumstances, we need to be made aware of the issue so that we can evaluate the situation and make the necessary improvements. We believe that most complaints are made constructively and can be sorted out at an early stage. We consider that it is in the best interests of the nursery that complaints are taken seriously and that they are dealt with fairly and confidentially.

A parent/carer who is uneasy or unsure about any aspect of the nursery provision should first discuss their concerns with the Nursery Manager, who will attempt to resolve the problem. In the event that the parent is unhappy with how the complaint has been handled, the parent is entitled to complain to Ofsted on 0300 123 1231. A brief copy of the complaints

procedure along with the relevant address is located on the office door in the hallway. A full copy of the policy is available on request.

Safeguarding Children

Sawtry Day Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Any concerns will be dealt with promptly in a way that is appropriate to each individual case. To ensure the safety of each child we will:

- exclude known abusers
- prevent abuse by means of good practice
- maintain appropriate records
- liaise with and refer to outside agencies as necessary
- maintain confidentiality
- provide support to families
- recommend that staff make access to their social networking pages private and avoid accepting 'friend requests' from parents on social networking sites.
- practitioners are not permitted to babysit children who attend nursery in order to protect both parties from possible allegations

Behaviour Management

We recognise the importance of positive, clear and effective behaviour management strategies. Our aim is to support all children in developing confidence, self discipline, and self esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Practitioners focus on positive behaviour and reward children with acknowledgement, praise for effort, and kindness and perseverance.

Healthy and Nutritious Meals and Refreshments

Our kitchen facilities are regulated by Huntingdon District Council's Environmental Health Department to ensure that they comply with Food Safety legislation. We are continually inspected and awarded 5/5 – excellent in their 'Scores on the Doors' Scheme.

Breakfast is available until 8.30am.

We provide a mid-morning snack on a rolling basis allowing the children to continue with their play and eat when they are ready. The children have access to fresh drinking water all through the day.

A two course lunch is provided at 12.00 noon and a light tea from 3.45pm.

The Nursery prides itself on serving high quality and nutritious food and has previously been awarded the 'Soil Association Food for Life Early Years Award'. To achieve this award the nursery had to demonstrate a commitment to ensuring that food is locally, responsibly and ethically sourced.

We purchase eggs and potatoes on a weekly basis from a farm local to Sawtry.

Our milk is organic from cows that are mainly fed on grass and not grain so improving the quality of life for the cows and providing omega-3 rich milk for the children.

We grow fruit and vegetables in our nursery garden, and regularly receive home grown fruit and vegetables from other growers in the community.

We aim to provide a varied range of meals, rich in minerals and vitamins with lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and low in salt and sugar. The children are encouraged to try a little of all foods, but are never forced.

For our younger babies, we work with parents to offer a balanced weaning programme. This is regularly reviewed with parents on an individual basis.

Please ensure that Nursery staff are aware of all cultural or dietary requirements. All rooms have a copy of all dietary requirements and allergies clearly displayed.

Forest School Learning

Sawtry Day Nursery offers a range of forest school learning activities. Forest School activities are organised by our Forest School lead and are included each week as part of our regular programme in our pre-school room.

The principle vision for Forest Schools is to enable each child attending the sessions to have the opportunity to develop an inquisitive and positive relationship with the natural world. Activities planned by qualified practitioners prove to increase confidence, self-esteem and respect, communication and language skills, have a positive attitude to learning, and allow the children to develop holistically to their full potential.

The philosophy of forest Schools is to inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences and provide them with an opportunity to appreciate and understand the wider natural world by encouraging a responsibility for nature.

Government Nursery Education Funding:

- Further details are available online at www.beststartinlife.gov.uk.
- We offer a maximum of 22.5 funded hours per week over 50 weeks. Please see our Nursery Fees information and booking form on our Nursery Fees page.

Tax free childcare

Working parents can save up to 20% on their childcare fees. For every £8.00 paid into the account, the government will add a further £2.00. Please see www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for more details. There is a calculator on the site to help parents make the right choices as other government benefits may be affected.

Clothing

Please dress your child in warm clothes as we spend quite a lot of time outside and even when we are inside, we have doors and windows open much of the time ensuring good ventilation to minimise any spread of infection within the nursery. Older and inexpensive clothes are the preferred choice of clothing as we offer a wide choice of messy play activities both indoors and outdoors. A change of clothing should be provided in a named bag in case of accidents. It is really helpful if all clothing that may be removed is labelled with your child's name, so that it can be returned promptly.

For a large part of the day, the children have access to the outside play areas. In order for your child to have the opportunity to benefit from all of our learning opportunities, please provide appropriate seasonal clothing eg coats, gloves, wellies, sunhats etc.

Clothes that your child can put on and take off easily by themselves are ideal especially when potty training, encouraging, and allowing your child to practice independence skills.

The nursery provides sun hats and sun cream. Please provide your own cream if your child has an allergy to certain brands.

The Nursery cannot be held responsible for any lost items.

Babies

Babies follow their own individual eating and sleeping routines which are shared just before starting nursery.

We ask that parents supply nappies and at least one change of clothes.

We provide dry wipes, certain brands of formula (not specialised or follow on milk), pureed or mashed fresh vegetables, and/or meals.

Staffing

We currently operate with a team that is extremely well qualified, including several who we are supporting to attain higher qualifications. The team shares a range of experience and qualifications from extremely experienced teaching assistants to level 4 in Early Years and level 5 in SEND. Sawtry Day Nursery enthusiastically supports a programme of continuous personal development so that our team develops a deeper understanding and knowledge of working with young children.

Security

We use the online Q-bell system for parents to let us know when they arrive at the nursery either to drop off their child or collect their child. On notification, one of our team will message back directing each family to one of our gates or to the front door. We also have a bell on the front door of the nursery for other visitors.

There are digital locks on all garden gates to prevent unauthorised access to the Nursery and the garden.

Children will only be permitted to leave the Nursery with prime or nominated carers. Alternative arrangements, including collection by emergency contacts, require specific prior notification. We can be contacted via the ParentAdmin system, email or phone.

Illness

We follow the government guidance relating to Infection Control in Schools and other childcare facilities. Information is available below and from the nursery office. We are not permitted by Ofsted or Environmental Health to accept children who have had sickness and diarrhoea in the last 48 hours or any child who has a communicable illness. Children who have a rash or a temperature should be seen by a doctor. Our aim is to prevent infections spreading through the Nursery.

If your child is unwell, you will be contacted and asked to make alternative arrangements. Please check with your doctor when your child may return to Nursery.

If antibiotics are prescribed for your child, the Nursery requires exclusion for 12 hours to ensure no allergic reaction. Prescribed medicines can be administered by level 3 or above Nursery staff. Insurance restrictions determine that non-prescribed medication will only be administered at the discretion of senior management.

Emergency Numbers

We ask that two additional contact numbers be provided so that if for any reason you can not be reached an alternative carer can be contacted. Additional contacts do not necessarily need to live close by. They are sometimes contacted to obtain up to date contact numbers. These can be updated on the ParentAdmin system by sending us a message.

No Smoking/Vaping Policy

Sawtry Day Nursery is committed to protecting all employees, children, parents, carers and visitors from exposure to second hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006. Smoking is prohibited within the Nursery and across the whole academy site.

All persons, on entering the academy site, either on foot or in a vehicle, must refrain from smoking or vaping.

Parent/Carer Suggestions/Comments

Sawtry Day Nursery has a strong ongoing commitment to the provision of quality childcare and education.

We appreciate any constructive comments both positive and negative which will help us to monitor and evaluate our practice and the quality of service that we provide for you, your child, and your family.

Sawtry Day Nursery Ltd.
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Minimum Exclusion Periods for Common Illness and Disease

DISEASE	PERIOD OF EXCLUSION
Antibiotics prescribed	first 12 hours including antibacterial eye drops
Chicken Pox	5 days from when the rash first appeared and until all blisters have crusted over
Conjunctivitis	None/12 hours after eye drops administered
Diarrhoea / Sickness	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea and vomiting (NB. exclusion from swimming for 2 weeks after final bout following cryptosporidiosis)
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning,	
Salmonella and Dysentery	48 hours or until advised by the doctor
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None as long as clinically well.
Impetigo	Until the lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after antibiotics
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling
Pediculosis (lice)	None
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	2 days from starting antibiotic treatment or 21 days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics
Ringworm of scalp	until treatment has been given
Ringworm of the body	until treatment has been given
Scarlet fever	24 hours after antibiotics commenced
Slapped face/Fifth disease	None as long as clinically well
Warts (including verrucae)	None. Feet must be covered

Further guidance on these and other illnesses is available online on the UK Health Security Agency website.