The Elms Day Nursery
An award winning nursery at the University of Birmingham
The Elms Day Nursery

The Elms Day Nursery offers high quality childcare to staff and students at the University of Birmingham, and the community, enabling parents to pursue their higher education or employment goals, knowing their child is within a safe and happy learning environment.

Our ethos is based on the belief that every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support to fulfil their potential. A child’s experience in the early years has a major impact on their future. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important and when parents or carers chose a nursery or pre-school they want the assurance that they will keep their children safe and support them to develop. The environment and daily activity programme at The Elms helps develop confident, independent and creative children.

Light, airy and spacious, The Elms is a bright, stimulating and inviting environment where children thrive. Located in a convenient location on the university’s’ Edgbaston campus, the traditional building is surrounded by trees, landscaped gardens and play areas.

Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years
Capacity: 114 children
Open: 7.55am to 6.20pm, Monday to Friday, 50/51 weeks a year

The Elms is extremely proud to have been graded as an outstanding provider by Ofsted, which recognises that 'the setting is exceptional' with significant elements being judged as exemplary.
Our aim is to help your child develop physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally – helping to prepare them for their future at school and beyond. We understand that each and every child needs a happy, healthy environment for learning and playing and our day nurseries are dedicated to helping parents provide just that. Children at The Elms benefit immensely from the rich, stimulating environment and the wealth of learning opportunities that are available to them. The government’s Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework the nursery follows to provide that assurance.

The curriculum and activities are based around the ‘Every Child Matters’ principles – keeping children safe and healthy, helping them enjoy and achieve, and encouraging them to make a positive contribution as they grow.

Every child who attends is an individual and is treated accordingly. The children are surrounded by their peers and dedicated practitioners to allow them to develop at their own pace.

Room organisation and age groupings ensure that all children have plenty of time to explore, play and learn, but most of all to enjoy their day. There are separate play areas and children are allocated a room in which to commence their nursery experience. Short ‘settling in’ sessions are offered to ensure that your child is completely happy in their new surroundings before attending a full session.
We are proud of our happy, professional team of nursery practitioners, all of whom have been chosen for their ability and commitment to care for and nurture young children.

Practitioners are appropriately qualified and experienced, and the nursery actively encourages further staff training and development. All our carers are fully vetted and are trained, or are working towards NVQ Child Care level 3.

Nursery practitioners attend regular First Aid, Child Protection and Food Hygiene courses. Everyone is encouraged to extend, improve and update their training and qualifications and keep up to date with developments and good practice in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

Our carer-to-child ratios meet the requirements of Ofsted and we ensure our staff have time to provide the attention each child needs.

0 to 2 year olds: 1 carer to 3 children
2 to 3 year olds: 1 carer to 4 children
3 to 5 year olds: 1 carer to 8 children
We work hard to promote a happy and harmonious relationship with both children and parents as we recognise that the best childcare is achieved through close co-operation with the family. A successful partnership with parents is based on the exchange of information, knowledge and expertise. When a child joins us, they are allocated a key person who becomes their primary carer whilst at The Elms, and with whom they, and their family, will build a secure relationship ensuring all feel included, secure, valued and welcome in the nursery.

The Elms carers have been praised by Ofsted for their strong partnerships with parents. Parents are a vital part of our team and we believe building a mutually trusting, supportive relationship with you makes a real difference to your child’s development and wellbeing.

We’re flexible on the sessions your child attends – mornings, afternoons, all day – whatever works for your family*. Access to your child’s learning journey is encouraged at any time and regular newsletters keep you up to date with news about the nursery plus there are two parents’ evenings per year, where you are encouraged to contribute.

We’re always here to listen to your comments, sharing our insights and learning from yours.

* Session spaces are subject to availability
being healthy and staying safe

Your child’s safety and wellbeing are our first priority. Our carefully planned environment helps to ensure that the facilities at The Elms meet the needs of active young children.

Nowhere is this more important than ensuring the security of the environment. We have exceptional standards, with a strict door policy and a CCTV system to support our staffs own vigilance.

Qualified First Aiders are present in at all times, and our highly-skilled staff are trained in proper hygiene practice. We also teach children simple ways they can help take care of themselves. Little lessons, like washing their hands, blowing their noses, getting exercise and looking after their friends are important building blocks that help them think about how they and others can stay safe and healthy.

healthy appetites and good nutrition

Of course, growing children need good food, so we plan the meals we serve at our childcare centres extremely carefully. Fresh, local ingredients, lots of nutrients and colourful presentation help establish healthy habits and provide the energy to keep on playing. Hot meals are provided at lunchtime, along with morning and afternoon snacks, water, and fresh fruits. We also take the utmost care in accommodating dietary needs or allergies, working with parents and carers to provide where possible, suitable meals for children who have special requirements as diagnosed by a doctor or dietician. Facilities for rest or sleep contribute to supporting a healthy environment for children in our care.

We are proud to have been awarded an Early Years Healthy Settings Award from the Birmingham Health Education Service.
At The Elms we focus on fun, creativity and activities which get children thinking for themselves. We encourage them to make decisions and share ideas, letting their imaginations and interests take the lead.

We also try to make children feel part of a community, nurturing the social and organisational skills they need to become well-balanced, communicative grown-ups. Small responsibilities like helping to plan excursions, listening properly and asking questions form good habits, while charitable activities create awareness of other people’s lives.
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Apart from their physical skills, children learn language, communication, problem solving and numeracy and they learn about working together in their personal, social and emotional development. They are creative and imaginative in their activities and they learn about the environment, time, and different cultures to develop an understanding of the world about them.

Cookery, yoga, music, gardening, French and drama are just some of the extra curricular activities the children can participate in, should they wish.
A new initiative for our nursery is the introduction of the Forest School innovative, educational approach to outdoor play and learning.

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences, creating a unique learning vehicle for interactive play, health, recreation and personal development.

By participating in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment, children learn about nature, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative in solving problems and co-operating with others. The aim is to develop, good social communication skills, independence, intrinsic motivation, empathy, positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence. These, through self awareness can be developed to reach personal potential.

Our landscaped grounds provide spaces where children can explore, integrate, grow to love nature and watch the seasons unfold. Our play and adventure equipment is specifically designed to match the different stages in your child’s development using sustainable materials, that incorporate many different textures, heights, vistas and structures all to help in their learning and understanding of the world around them.
principles that matter

At The Elms Day Nursery we operate under the following important principles, to ensure quality and continuity of care:

**statement of care**

We are dedicated to providing high quality childcare, which offers each individual child a safe, secure and caring environment. We provide a comprehensive range of stimulating and purposeful opportunities and experiences that allows each child to explore and pursue their own interests and goals to promote and enhance all aspects of their individual development.

**statement of inclusion**

We believe in the inclusion of all children and parents regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national religions, disability, sex or anti-social behaviour. Children who display any form of anti-social behaviour will continue within the nursery, with individual behaviour management strategies being put into operation as set out in our managing behaviour policy.

**statement of equal opportunity**

We are committed to the principle of equal opportunity. Accordingly our policies for admission into the nursery are designed to ensure that no child receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national religions, disability or sex.

The Elms Day Nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) – the national charity representing children’s day nurseries across the UK, which promotes quality in early years care and education for the benefit of children, their families and the local community.

The Elms Day Nursery is Ofsted registered – URN: 227172
The Elms Day Nursery
33 Edgbaston Park Road
BIRMINGHAM, B15 2RS
Tel: 0121 414 8118
www.birmingham.ac.uk/nurseries