

# Ashcroft Infant and Nursery School



## Nursery Learning Environment

# Why the Nursery Environment matters for Your Child...

*The nursery environment plays a big role in how your child will grow, learn, and feel every day. It's more than just a place to play — it's a space designed to help your child thrive in every way.*

## 1. Helps Children Feel Safe and Happy

A calm, welcoming space helps your child feel secure and comfortable. When children feel safe, they are more confident to explore, try new things, and make friends.

## 2. Encourages Learning Through Play

Young children learn best through play. Our nursery environment is full of interesting things to touch, see, and do — like books, toys, puzzles, and creative materials. These help your child build skills like talking, counting, and problem-solving, all while having fun.

## 3. Supports Independence

Ashcroft nursery is set up so children can choose what they want to do — whether that's building blocks, dressing up, or painting. This helps them become more independent, confident, and proud of what they can do on their own.

## 4. Builds Social Skills

The space is also designed to help children play together, share, take turns, and learn how to get along with others. These early social skills are so important as they grow.

## 5. Encourages Creativity and Imagination

From our role-play corner to our art area, nursery offers plenty of chances for your child to express themselves. This builds creativity and helps them make sense of the world around them.

## 6. Supports Routines and Structure

Children feel more settled when they know what to expect. A well-organized nursery environment helps them understand daily routines, which builds confidence and reduces anxiety.

## 7. Celebrates Every Child

A great nursery environment includes books, resources, pictures and activities that reflect different backgrounds, cultures, and abilities. This helps every child feel included and valued.

*The nursery team are always assessing the environment and how the children are using it. We carefully plan and adapt the areas to support your child's interests, learning, happiness, and development in a way that's meaningful and sparks curiosity.*

*It is a fun and ever evolving space, take a look...*

Welcome to our  
indoor learning  
environment...



Large interactive screen to  
support our learning.



The areas are set up with  
plenty of space around  
them, so the children can  
move around freely.

The resources are also  
stored in open containers  
and vessels or easily  
accessible drawers and  
boxes – this enables the  
children to be independent  
in their choices and  
learning.



Each classroom zone supports a range of skills, not just one. We encourage children to gather resources, combine them creatively, and explore different ways of learning and doing.

In this space, children are encouraged to make marks in many creative ways—whether it's drawing in the sand, stamping shapes into dough, forming graphemes, or crafting imaginative pictures.

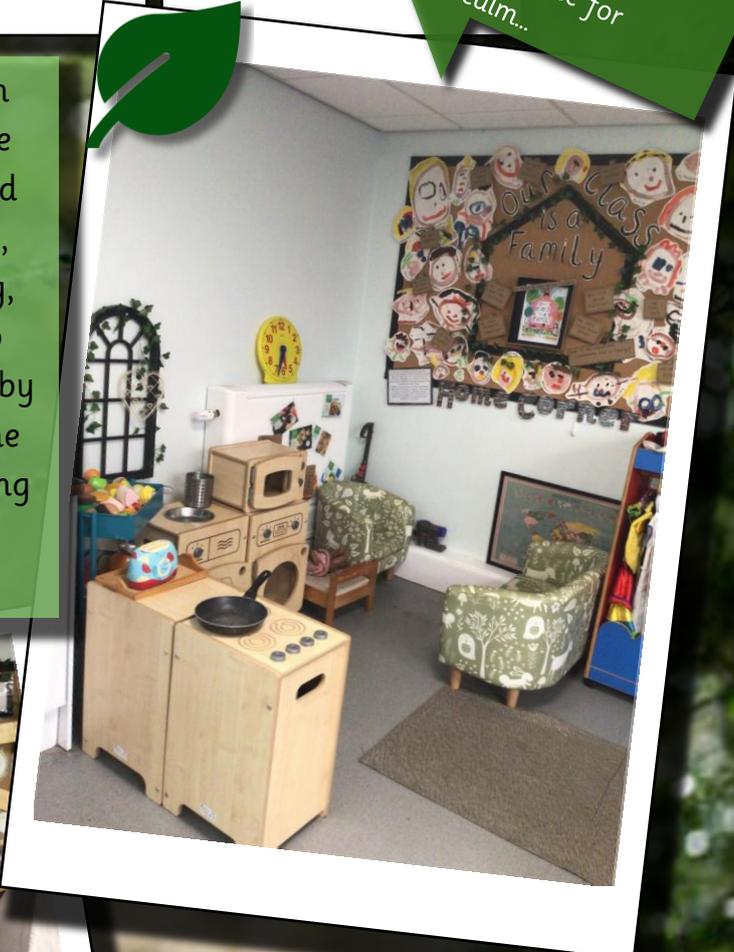


Fine motor skills are a crucial part of early development. We support this by offering a variety of activities, such as playdough and 'finger gym' workouts, to help strengthen hand and finger coordination.



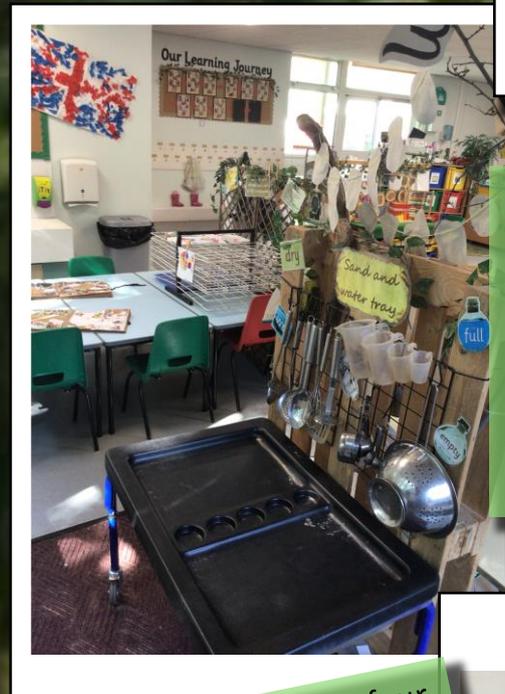
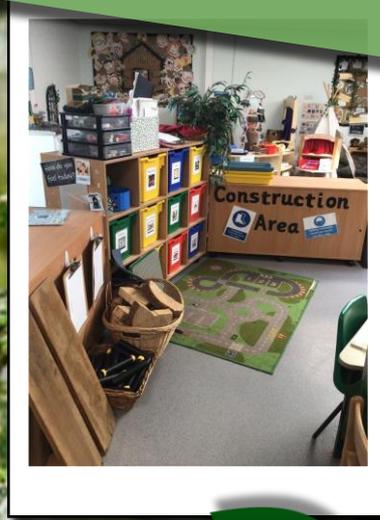
A cosy area provides space for calm...

Storytelling and role play are firm favourites with the children. These activities boost communication and language skills, enrich vocabulary, encourage imaginative storytelling, nurture a love of books, and help children make sense of their world by acting out familiar experiences. The small world table is always changing to reflect the children's current interests and seasonal themes.



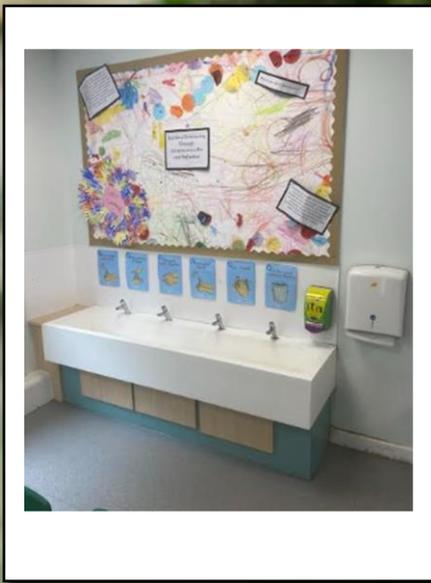
Our dressing-up area sparks imaginative play while also helping children build important self-care skills—like pulling clothes on, undoing fastenings, and becoming more independent in dressing.

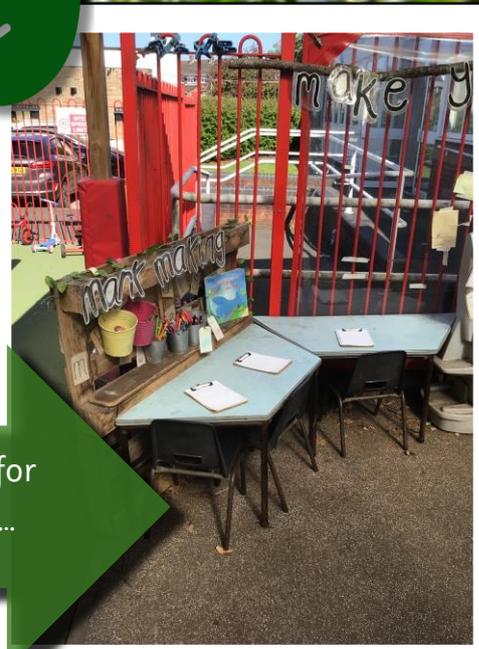
In our maths and construction areas, children can freely access resources that support playful learning. They build skills like counting, number recognition, shape awareness, measuring, subitising, and more—all through hands-on exploration.



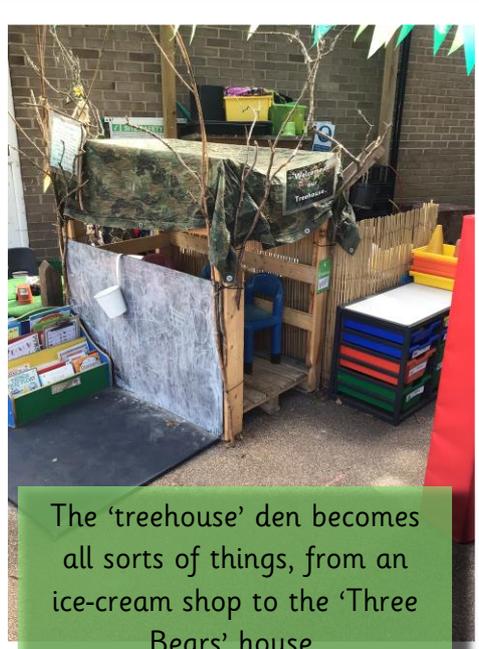
The messy area, which features our sensory tray and creative table, encourages children to express their creativity and take part in sensory exploration. Through this, they develop fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and imaginative thinking.

Our classroom includes four toilets and a trough sink, which children can access freely and independently throughout the day, with adult support when needed. We also provide changing facilities to ensure all children's personal care needs are met.



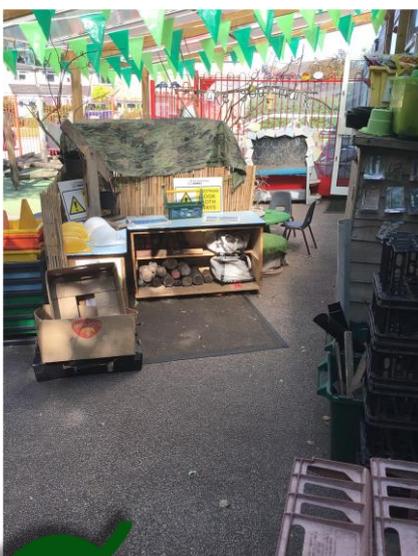


Opportunities for  
mark making...



The 'treehouse' den becomes  
all sorts of things, from an  
ice-cream shop to the 'Three  
Bears' house.

Welcome to our  
outdoor learning  
environment...

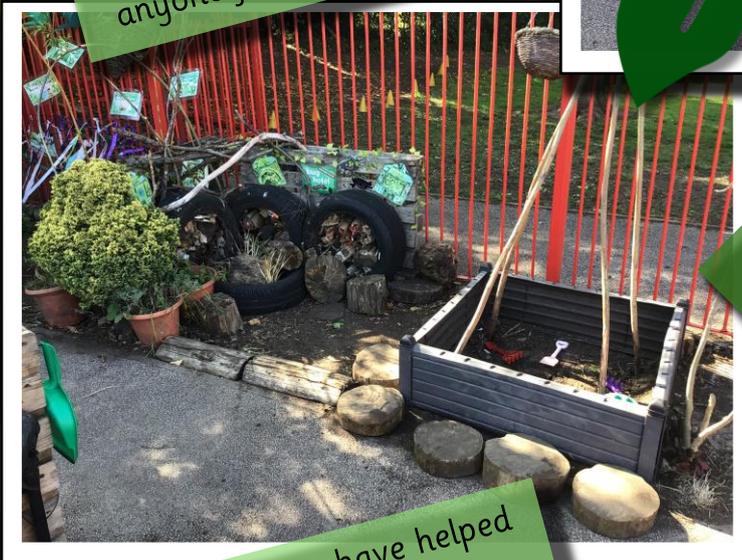


In our outdoor construction  
area, children engage with  
larger-scale resources,  
supporting key areas of the  
EYFS such as Physical  
Development and  
Communication and  
Language. Through this type  
of play, they learn to  
manoeuvre materials safely,  
build spatial awareness,  
collaborate with others,  
solve problems, and adapt  
their ideas as they build and  
create.



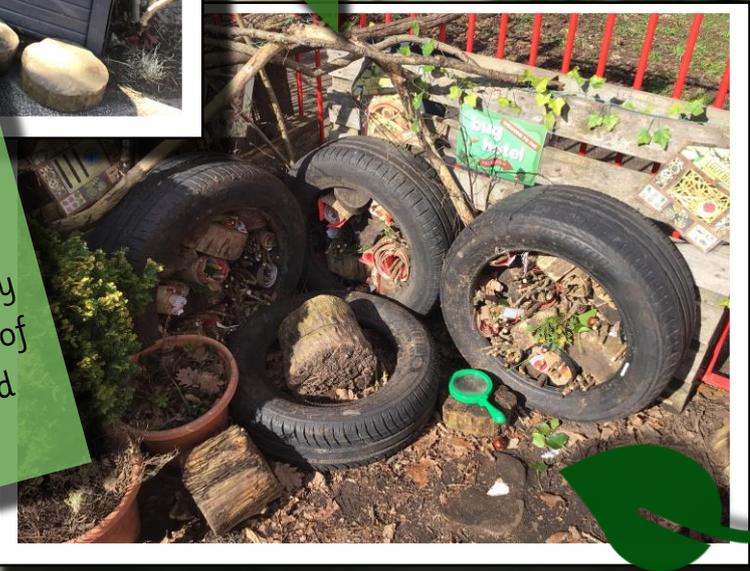
The mud kitchen offers opportunities for the children to develop a wide range of skills, including fine and gross motor skills, sensory exploration, social skills, exploring math's concepts and creativity.

The children are encouraged to gather resources from around the garden to support their play. They often link their mud kitchen creations to stories we have shared such as The Gruffalo... anyone fancy scrambled snake?



In our digging area the children build their gross motor skills by lifting, scooping, pushing and transporting.

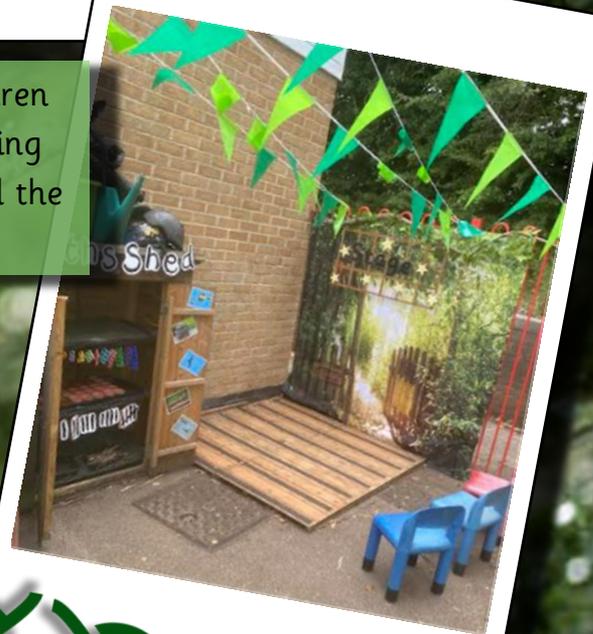
The nursery children have helped us to develop our bug hotel. Through this hands-on exploration of nature and scientific enquiry, the children have the opportunity to develop their understanding of wildlife and the natural world around them.





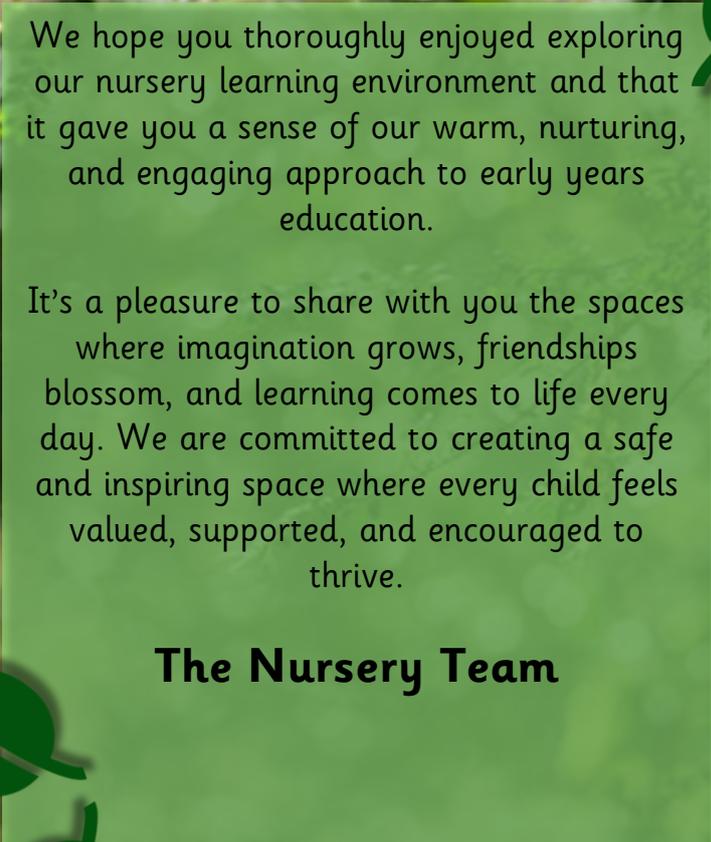
Our weaving wall provides the opportunity for the children to develop hand-eye coordination, focus and perseverance. It also makes the fence look very colourful!

We have areas in the garden where the children can help grow things. This encourages learning about the life cycles of plants, their needs and the wonders of nature.



There are plenty of opportunities for children to explore large movements and develop their gross motor skills. The climbing frame supports the development of core strength, balance, and coordination. The stage area allows children to engage in dance and expressive movement, encouraging spatial awareness and control. Additionally, the large grassy area provides space for running, jumping, and exploring a range of movements freely, supporting children's confidence and physical competence in managing movement.





We hope you thoroughly enjoyed exploring our nursery learning environment and that it gave you a sense of our warm, nurturing, and engaging approach to early years education.

It's a pleasure to share with you the spaces where imagination grows, friendships blossom, and learning comes to life every day. We are committed to creating a safe and inspiring space where every child feels valued, supported, and encouraged to thrive.

**The Nursery Team**