

**FREE**  
Your Exclusive  
Nursery Guide 2021

# Nursery Preschool or Primary School?



Pitter Patters advice for parents who are exploring nursery preschool versus primary school nursery.



I'm thinking about moving my child to a school nursery...

What is the difference between a private nursery and school nursery?

Both follow the same EYFS statutory guide lines however...

Private nursery schools run their sessions on each individual child's interests. The staff observe, plan and look at your child's next steps to create activities that

suit your child needs all in line with the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage).

A School nursery will follow topic lead teaching that does not always suit your child's interests or fully support their preferences.

Private nurseries will not force your child to sit at a table and take part in focused teaching activities as this goes against the EYFS ethos. A school nursery will do this as they have to continually meet teaching targets related to the whole school statistics.

What about the funding, attendance, drop offs and pick ups?

Both receive 15 hours a weeks for all 3-4 year olds however, most school nurseries will only offer you mornings or afternoons. You cannot pay extra for more hours or all day nursery/ childcare.

Private nurseries are flexible with timings and attendance. If you decide to take your child on a family holiday during term time, that's not a problem.

School nurseries may stop you having holidays in school term times.

Private nurseries are small and friendly places that welcomes parents and their opinions. They run with an open-door policy where you are welcome at all times and receive detailed feedback on your child's day. School nurseries usually take your child at the door and you will only be allowed in with an appointment.

What about the staff and ratios?

At Pitter Patter, our Preschool we have a child:adult ratio of 1-8 for 3/4 year olds. Some children are not emotionally ready for a school environment at such a young age. Considerations must be made whether the school nursery is ready for your child, not whether your child is ready for school nursery.

Private nurseries legally have to run on a 1 adult to every 8 children ratio

School nurseries can run on a 1-16 ratio meaning 2 members of staff for 32 children!

Private nurseries have a key person approach child system in place so that each child and parent feels they have someone special to build a relationship with.

School nurseries do not.

How many times have you spent the afternoon at the park or at a toddler group and by home time your little one is waving goodbye to their new friend?

Do not be put under pressure and made to feel guilty by the school nursery using the words 'make friends'

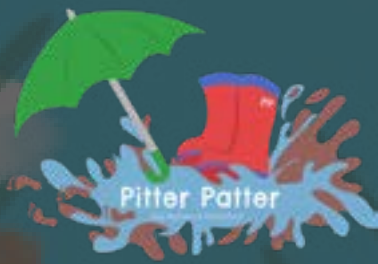
Think about it! How many 'friends' did your child have when they first started with us? Look at them now!

Children will always make friends!

But the school nursery said it important for them to make friends with the children who they will be going to school with!







I'm thinking about moving my child to a school nursery...

So, what are the benefits of continuing with my child's early year's education at Pitter Patter?

Your child is settled.  
The staff are fully qualified specifically in 'early years' and understand the importance of the EYFS ethos of the unique child and learning through play.

For many School Nurseries, the school budget does not allow for the adequate provision of Early Years classroom/teaching assistants/resources and these are, more often than not, shared by the whole school.

Ask the school nursery these questions before deciding:

- What is the ratio of staff to children?
- Will my child receive toileting assistance if needed?
- What if a child has a toileting accident? Who will help them and how many staff will be left with the other children in the classroom?
- What are the staff qualifications/training in early years?
- Are the staff in the school nursery classroom first aid trained/qualified?
- Does the school nursery have a suitable environment and equipment available for children who are three and four?

No. Once you have made your application and your child has been accepted, the place is yours for the whole of that academic year.

If I do decide to leave my child at Pitter Patter, will I lose their place at the school of my choice?

But the school are already putting pressure on me to move my child from Pitter Patter to their school Nursery saying if I don't, they cannot guarantee my child will receive a place in that school?

This is not true.

Do not be put under pressure by schools to move your child – many schools have been misinforming parents for years that this would secure their place in their school. County Councils make it very clear that just because a child attends a

school nursery does not guarantee them a place at that school. It's not the school who decide, it's the local authority!

FACT: After being put under pressure by the school of their choice, three children left Pitter Patter to attend the nursery attached to that school.

Those children DID NOT get in to the school!!!!

The Legal age for starting School is 5.

If you feel your child is ready for school in the September after their fourth birthday you may wish them to go to Reception Class at school. However, you do have alternative choices:

1. You are allowed to DEFER a child's place for at least a term and have the start in Reception in the January. Once you have been offered a place the school cannot withdraw it if you defer in this way
2. For Summer Born children you can apply to your local authority for your children to start school ONE YEAR later and to start in Reception and not into Year 1.

This is a new rule brought in in 2015/16.

In both these instances your child will still be eligible for 15 hours of nursery education and up to 30 hours (from 2017/18) if you are eligible. And the preschool curriculum that we currently offer still meets their developmental needs.

What next? Does my child have to go to school at 4 if they are Summer Born?



# Testimonials

“

Yorley Barn is a wonderful place and has been a wonderful environment for our child. Our son has loved his time there. Being an August birthday, we felt starting a couple of weeks later at school was not in his best interest and too soon. Under the previous system he wouldn't have started until the summer term several months later.

”

“

We decided to keep him at nursery until after Christmas. In that time he has blossomed and grown in confidence. He has the skills that school hope pupils come with, i.e. dressing, eating, using the toilet by himself.

”

“

Just thought I would let you know it was Elliot's first day at school today. He settled in really nicely, all the other children had been told he was starting and were really excited to see him. There were no tears (from any of us!). He pretty much chucked his coat at Duncan, barely said goodbye and off he went! He was so excited on the way to school he was literally bouncing.

”

“

Yorley Barn follow the Key Stage Programme, so we are confident that he will not be behind the other children who started in September.

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“

He has enjoyed being one of the older children, something that won't be the case once he starts school. It has also meant that he is outgrowing the environment somewhat and looking forward to the new challenges of school and is now keen to start. This may not have been the case if he had started in September.

”

“

It was a great start for him and I am so glad we deferred and waited before sending him as he now knows he is too big for nursery, but just right for big school.

”

“

Again, thank you so much for the wonderful start you gave to him at Yorley Barn

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“

Each child is different and has different needs. We believe keeping our son at Yorley Barn has been the best thing we could do for him.

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“

Many thanks to all at Yorley Barn who have been 'outstanding'.

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## Please Note...

At a meeting with Suffolk County Council which all Nurseries are required to attend, concerned Nursery managers/leaders across Suffolk expressed their concern at the false information many schools/school nurseries were giving prospective parents causing anguish and confusion. We as nursery schools have been told we must whistle blow any school giving misleading information.

If this has happened to you, please let us know so we may contact Suffolk County Council and report the school on your behalf.

If you are still unsure about anything at all, please feel free to come and see us.





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[www.pitterpatternursery.co.uk](http://www.pitterpatternursery.co.uk)