



**Ladybirds Nature Parent Toddler & Play Group**

**Dare Valley Nature Kindergarten  
Purpose and Parent Handbook**

**Why Ladybirds?**

**“To inspire and Unlock the Potential of every child”**



## Introduction

Ladybirds Parent & Toddler group is based on Scandinavian Nature Pedagogy and is part of the Dare Valley Nature Kindergarten; the only one of its kind in Wales!

The benefits of nature and the outdoors will provide your child with a rich learning experience supporting your child's physical, emotional and cognitive development.

Set within the wonderful Dare Valley County Park on the borders of the Brecon Beacons National Park & Dark Sky Reserve your child will experience learning through play & exploration in a diverse range of habitats gaining first hand experiences that will help them become confident, independent, resilient and happy children. At the core of our 'curriculum' is the wellbeing of your child. Learning the lessons from Denmark & Sweden that have consistently ranked as the highest in child wellbeing in the past decade you child will thrive and understand what make them feel like the best version of themselves.

Children will explore nature in depth which is proven to have significant impacts on their health, wellbeing and achievement.

This group focuses on you as a parent with your child interacting with nature, with support and facilitation of a trained nature teacher. We create structures for learning through play and encourage parents to let your child go where their interest takes them.

## Regulation

As the group operates through sessions with parents in the morning and without during the afternoon we are not eligible to register with CCISW however, our staff and setting comply with all relevant child care, first aid and outdoor based qualification requirements, exceeding all National Minimum Standards (NMS), with 'Our Pedagogy' reflecting international best practice in Nature Kindergartens from Scandinavia.

Our staff will have the following key qualifications:

- Qualified Teacher(s), Level 3 Teaching and Learning Qualifications, or Childcare qualifications, with Forest School Leader status
- Outdoor and Paediatric First Aid
- Level 2 Food Hygiene qualifications
- DBS checked

## Insurance

Ladybirds is part of Ignite Unlocking Potential, a specialist in nature based pedagogies from across Scandinavia and one of the UK's leading outdoor training and activity provider. As a company with social enterprise status we are a values based organisation and ensure all work we do produces social, financial and environmental impacts for our community. We have current public and employer liability insurance and all activities are risk assessed.



## Sessions

Friday Morning 10-12: Ladybirds Parent & Toddler Group  
Friday Afternoons 1:10-3:05 Dare Valley Nature Kindergarten

### Ladybird Mornings

During these sessions our Ladybird leader will facilitate a range of free-play, songs and stories, focused nature based activities and snack time. The sessions are designed to be open-ended and child led so that you and your children can explore themselves and nature together, as well as achieve the unique benefits that the outdoors provides.

We provide drinks, teas and coffees, as well as snack such as toast, biscuits and fruit in the mornings.

The last hour of this session, 12.00-1.00 will be lunch time where we will host a simple lunch around the fire, which parents and toddlers are welcome to get involved with; alternatively you can bring your own lunch and stay with us in the woods.

### Nature Kindergarten Afternoons

These sessions are playgroup based and without parents. We can accommodate 1 hour & 55 minutes of provision which will allow your child the chance to develop their independence and confidence in Dare Valley Nature Kindergarten as they prepare for longer sessions without parents and carers. These short sessions also provide you the opportunity for a break without having to enrol your little one into a “formal and structured” setting which may not be developmentally appropriate for your child.

Ladybirds who attend in the mornings can stay for the afternoon; as well as children who attend other nursery and day care settings the mornings elsewhere.

We encourage you to bring your child with a little backpack with a healthy snack and drink.





## Typical Day

### Ladybirds:

- 10.00: Meet in courtyard at Dare Valley Park
- 10.00 - 10.40: Journey to woods and free play
- 10.40 - 11.00 Songs and stories at the fire
- 11.00 - 11.15: Snack time
- 11.15 - 12.00: Focused activity or free play
- 12.30 - 12.50: Lunch (for Kindergarten)

### Kindergarten:

- 1.10: Meet in courtyard at Dare Valley Park
- 1.15 - 3.00 Nature Kindergarten session
- 3.05: Collect child from courtyard

In addition, there will be days/sessions where we will adventure within the park taking advantage of the weather, seasons and the other beautiful areas that Dare Valley Park provides.

### Parent participation

Ladybirds provides fantastic opportunities for you to get actively involved in your child's learning and development.

We encourage you to explore and facilitate your child's curiosity whether they are constructing, jumping in puddles and the brook or planting trees in the

woods. If you are unsure if an activity is safe or appropriate for your child, please speak with our LadyBird leader who can offer guidance on developmentally appropriate activities for your child. Please remember small things to us as adults are huge steps for our little ones, please encourage and praise your child and others; we are a community.

Ladybirds is about building a community and group for you and your children. We believe that if you have a stake and purpose in this group, not only will your child benefit but the possibilities of the group will grow as well. There will be opportunities to volunteer and support the group in discussion with the Ladybird Leaders.

As this is an inclusive and open group, all we ask is that you help yourselves to drinks and with preparation and sharing of snacks.

### Who is Ladybirds For?

Ladybirds mornings are open to all children and families from birth months to 5 years. Kindergarten afternoons are for children aged 2.5 - 5 years (7 if home schooling). The woods are accessible to pushchairs and the environment is caring and open to children with different needs.

### Language

Ladybirds is a Bilingual provision. We provide opportunities for English & Welsh speakers to engage in our Nature based setting.



## Weather

*“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, its about learning to dance in the rain”*

Ladybirds is an all weather group and whilst we love puddles and mud, as well as sunshine and warmth, there are times when shelter and heat is needed.

Don’t worry about really bad weather, we have access to cover and shelters so if it is windy and wet we can escape the worst of the weather and still be outdoors.

## Staffing

We are a happy, caring and welcoming team. If you are uncertain with any aspect of Ladybirds or the Kindergarten and would like some guidance on how you can support your child’s development outside of Ladybird session’s please speak to one of our staff. We are here to help!

## Morning capacity

We have space and capacity for 24 Ladybirds each morning. As this is a parent Toddler group we are not required to follow CCISW standard ratios; however we operate a maximum 1:12 ratio to ensure smooth running.

## Afternoon capacity

We have space and capacity for 8 children each afternoon. For these sessions we follow National Minimum Standards and provide adult supervision at 1:4 adults to children.

## Admissions

Booking is essential to avoid disappointment. Please visit our events page for booking <http://igniteup.co.uk/events/>

This will allow appropriate staffing, and the planning and resourcing of the sessions to enable your child to have the best learning experience we can provide..

Enrolment runs with 7 sessions (get 1 free) & 4 session blocks. Enrolment with Ladybirds will also provide priority for admission to our Nature Kindergarten (Limited spaces).

After receiving your payment, we will confirm your child’s place. If there are any issues with days and availability we will contact you in advance

### Guiding Principles

- Fee's are due in advance of 1st day of term
- You can book additional sessions at short notice if you have previously enrolled for a minimum of 7.
- If you are booked for a session but cannot attend, just please let us know in advance so we are aware you are not attending.

### Cancellations

If you cannot attend a session after enrolment and payment, there are no refunds. If there are unforeseen and extenuating circumstances, please contact us to discuss.

If we have to cancel a session for any reason, we will provide 24 hours notice and honour the session on another day, or in the next term with a credit.

### How to Book & Pay

You can complete an enrolment form online at: <http://igniteup.co.uk/events/>

### Our Address

Ignite Unlocking Potential, Dare Valley Country Park, Aberdare CF44 7RG  
Tel: 01685 871860



**We are member of Wales Pre-school Providers Association (Wales PPA)**



\*Please complete this form and return to [info@igniteup.co.uk](mailto:info@igniteup.co.uk) or deliver to Dare Valley Country Park. We advise to check availability before submitting and places will only be confirmed upon receipt of the **enrolment form**, **payment** and a **confirmation** from ourselves.

Parent Name:

Mobile number (1):

Work number (2):

2nd person name &  
contact number:

Main contact email:

Child Name (1):

DOB & Age:

Child Name (2):

DOB & Age:

Which day will you be attending? (circle below)

Friday:

AM

PM

Both



Any known medical conditions:

Any known allergies:

Any known learning needs:

Do we have your consent that if required, your child will be taken by staff to the nearest Accident and Emergency unit to be examined, treated or admitted as necessary, on the understanding that you have been informed and are on your way to the hospital.

Yes No

Should there be a delay in you giving consent for treatment, the medical professional in charge, will make any decisions necessary in order that your child's health safety is not compromised.

Do you consent to any emergency treatment necessary by the medical professional in charge

Yes No

Have we your consent for outings/walks etc. outside the woodland including the wider country park.

Yes No

Have we your consent to take photos of your child and display them within the setting/website/publicity?

Yes No

Are you happy for your child to appear in the media? This may mean their photo and name is used in print:

Yes No





Do you give consent for information about your child to be shared with others settings such as schools and other statutory bodies?

Yes No

Would you like to join the Ladybirds PTA and receive further information? to join the committee

Yes No

### **Registration Details and Records:**

1. I/we confirm that to the best of our knowledge the information provided on the registration form is accurate, and that I/we will inform the Ladybirds of any changes to it, including any changes in parent/carer status, e.g. in the event of parental separation.

2. Where possible, sessions will be made available to meet your needs subject to the requirements on this form, however, you should confirm with the Ladybirds staff that the sessions are available prior to completion of the form.

3. I/we understand that my/our child's records will be held on a computerised database and that this is kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and that they will be used for no other purposes than playgroup business, and will never be passed onto third parties. I/we also agree to the registration form and any others, related to the child, being kept by the playgroup for the period of time the child attends the playgroup and a further 7 years this is for public liability reasons.

### **Duty of Care/Illness:**

1. I/We understand that my/our child will not be admitted to LadyBirds if she/he is unwell, and I/We will keep them out of playgroup as required, according to the exclusion periods as advised by the medical practitioners or play leaders.

2. I/We agree to collect my/our child if they become ill whilst at the Playgroup,

3. I/We understand that the playgroup is only able to administer prescribed medicines.

4. In the event of my/our child requiring medication, as laid out above, I/we shall complete a Medication Form consenting to the Playgroup staff administering the child's medication as instructed by myself/ourselves, in accordance with the pre-

scription. Medication will be given by a Play leader or Assistant, and a further witness will be present. Parents must sign this form prior to medication been given.

5. Infant Paracetamol (i.e. Calpol) - Infant Paracetamol can be very effective at reducing children's temperature, however it may mask symptoms when there could be something more seriously wrong with a child. Because of this it is Playgroup policy not to administer Infant Paracetamol. The Playgroup will only administer Infant Paracetamol to treat the specific problem for which it has been prescribed.

6. I/We agree to inform the playgroup if my/our child has head lice. I/We agree that the child will be excluded for a period of time, which depends on the treatment used. Please seek the advice of the playgroup staff

7. I/We agree to the use of individually wrapped sterile adhesives (plasters) unless I/ we have already indicated that the child has allergy to these

8. I understand that Ladybirds is a Nature Based Parent and Toddler group in the outdoors and responsibility for the supervision and control of my child(ren) is the parents or the person attending with my child(ren) during the Parent Toddler sessions.

Print Name:

Sign name:

Relationship to child:

Date: