

A Little about Me

My name is Caroline, I'm 34 and I live in Stamford Bridge with my partner Gary who is a secondary school teacher and my two sons Jacob and Louie.

I have had a passion for childcare since I was young girl and find spending time with children great fun and very rewarding. So much so that after leaving school with Nine GCSE's I enrolled at Beverley College to study for a BTEC National Diploma in Early Years. On this course I gained lots of experience working in different nursery settings and with different age groups. I have gathered experience from schools, nurseries, childminders and playgroups as well as spending time on the baby ward at Hull Royal Infirmary.

Since completing my Level 3 in childcare I have worked in a number of different nurseries in the York area. During this time I have gained lots of valuable experience and have cared for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my career so far and have always felt like I had the best job in the world. During my final position I worked as a Senior Nursery Nurse and really enjoyed working as a team, helping to look after children and developing their learning. All this was achieved by planning and creating activities in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

After having children of my own I feel it is the perfect opportunity to start my own childcare business from home. This way I can care for my children whilst providing a home based childcare for other children too. I really enjoy providing resources, planning activities, helping children learn and most importantly seeing them happy and having a good time.

My home is warm and welcoming and enjoyed by all children. We have a colourful playroom that is full of learning opportunities including toys, musical instruments, creative material and books. It is designed to be enjoyed by all children aiding them to develop and learn new skills for their future. We have a conservatory filled with arts and craft and other hands on activities such as playdough, moon sand, and dough etc. We have a secure spacious garden with outdoor toys and a sandpit which the children love to explore.

If you would like to come over for a look around and an informal chat you are very welcome. Please contact me on 01759 740646 or 07814 184271

Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 8am – 5.30pm

Bank holidays – Closed

Fees

- £5 per hour
- Drop off/ pick up fee is negotiable
- If I am unable to provide care for your child due to holidays or sickness there will be no charge.
- If your child is booked in and does not attend a charge of £5 per hour still applies. This is because a place has been reserved for your child and cannot be filled in such a short space of time.
- All meals and snacks are included within the price.
- Fees are paid monthly in advance. Unfortunately there are no refunds for any absence (i.e. child / parent sickness, days off, holidays etc...)
- If a child is collected earlier than the contracted time, the full fee still applies.
- All child care fees are due monthly in advance on the 1st of every month. Failure to pay by the due date will result in loss of services unless a prior arrangement has been reached.
- I use a Morton Michel contract which includes a one month settling in period. During this time no notice is required by either party. However thereafter one month notice in writing is required.
- I provide an afterschool service. Which is £10 per day. This includes collection from school, a healthy snack, a nutritious dinner and endless fun activities.

Activities

Play is an important factor in a child's learning and development and it is essential that children have the opportunity to play and explore a range of different activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. It is important that I have the toys and other resources to provide an inclusive provision that reflects the diversity in the society in which we live.

Children are little explorers and love to get involved and find out new things. Although children are great observers they will learn better from their own first hand experiences. Allowing a child the opportunity to play and explore new activities gives them the ability to learn new skills that they will need for later in their life.

As a registered childminder it is important that I provide activities that meet all the 7 areas of learning. I do this through planning activities on a daily basis ensuring that all areas of their learning are covered.

Anyone that offers home based childcare must comply with the Children Act and its guidance. The act has the requirement 'to treat all children as individuals and with equal concern'. Providing play opportunities that meet all the needs of children is important. Not all children are the same and have different likes and interests. Children should be made to feel safe and secure which will in turn give them the confidence to play to their full potential. Play is about exploring the world in which the child lives, finding out the unknown and been driven by the child's interest. Children learn from each other. Playing together provides great opportunity for them to develop their personal, social and emotional skills as well as other areas of development. Although children need to be given the freedom to express themselves they must be made aware of their responsibilities such as sharing, taking turns, not excluding any children and being kind. In order for children to develop their skills they must have the opportunity to practice them. It is up to me as a childminder to provide these opportunities by planning activities and providing a wide variety of toys and equipment/resources.

Providing an inclusive provision is about letting children know that I respect them as individuals regardless of their social or ethnic background, abilities or health status. I include all children in activities and if needed adapt the activity to suit all the needs of the children within my care. For example if I was caring for two 4 year olds and another child aged 16 months and the older children were drawing pictures using pencils I would ensure I had some chunky crayons for the little one. I have different resources and equipment for different ages and stages of development. This means that all children are involved and are developing their hand eye co-ordination through drawing.

Below are examples of the activities I provide.

Baking

We have great fun baking! We make bread, biscuits and cakes along with other recipes too. I ensure all the children get involved as we count out the ingredients and mix it all together. It is a fantastic learning experience and the children love to see the outcome-especially eating it!!!!

All activities I do with the children I like to make them an education experience. For example when we make pizzas the children have the hands on experience of making their own from scratch. We then like to discuss where pizzas originated from which can then lead on to talking about what the capital city of Italy is etc. All activities are a learning experience and I plan activities based on the child's interest making sure I do everything I can to develop their learning further.

Creative

I provide a range of creative activities they include:

Painting

Potato printing

Cutting and sticking using different textures

Drawing

Chalking

Making play dough

Gloop (Corn flour and water)

Sand and water play

Junk modelling

Dancing

Musical instruments

Collaging

A selection of creative material including sequins, stickers, glitter, pipe cleaners, glue and paints.

Out and about

We love to be out and about visiting different places. We make the most of the local amenities such as the library, parks, play groups, childminding groups and much more.

Books

I have a wide range of books for all ages they include:

Musical

Touch and Feel

Number

Story

Factual

Alphabet

Cultural

I use the local libraries on a regular basis where the children can chose what books they would like to take out. We also like to take part in story time where possible. The children are able to get together with other children and sing songs, look at books and take part in activities.

Whatever topic we are looking in to the library comes in very handy. When focusing on certain topics we use the library as often as possible. We can take out numerous different books that can help develop the children's learning further.

Role play

Children love to learn by pretending and having the opportunity to role play is an important aspect of their learning. I have a wide range of resources that support role play and they are:

A selection of dressing up clothes

Dolls including clothes, high chair, car seat, bath, potty, pushchair etc

Kitchen - including cooker and a large selection of plastic food

Shop – Till, plastic money, food with bar code

Small world – houses and little people

'Teachers' chalk board with a selection of chunky chalks

Children are very good at using their imagination and will often play with resources pretending they are something else. Therefore many of the toys and equipment I have in my home are used for role play purposes.

Garden play

I have a wide range of outdoor equipment including:

Cars

Bikes

Scooters

Tunnels

Tennis/badminton rackets

Balls

Sand pit

Child size gardening tools

Chalk board

Swing ball

Push along walker

We have a secure spacious garden which the children love to explore. I often have the patio doors open allowing the children to play freely both indoors and out. On warm days we regularly set up the dinner table in the garden and enjoy our lunch in the fresh air.

A Typical day at Caroline's Child Care

7am – My day begins in the kitchen preparing vegetables for lunch.

7.30am – I help my children get ready for a day of fun with their friends.

8am – First knock of the day. A pre-school child greets me, takes off her shoes and coat and waves a hurried goodbye to mum. She then walks excitedly to the playroom to see what activities are set up.

8.10am – Another knock at the door. A big smile from the baby, and mum goes happily to work.

8.15am – Breakfast is served. A selection of cereal and fresh fruit is available. The older children love to help set the breakfast table before sitting down and enjoying their first meal of the day together.

8.45am – Shoes and coats on and we all enjoy a walk to school together. We chat about what the older children may be doing at school that day.

9.00am – We arrive home after the school run and read stories together and set up some fun activities. The children play happily together and enjoy exploring and learning through their play.

10am- Hands are washed and the children sit down ready for snack.

10.30am – The snacks are eaten and cleared away. Now time for more play; we build towers with the bricks, counting them one by one.

11am – I set up a painting activity. We have fun painting our hands and feet. All children are involved and having fun.

11.30am – Tidy up time. The children wash their hands and continue to play whilst I prepare lunch. I watch them play as I work. The baby is enjoying exploring the different toys in the play pen and smiling at the other children as they play.

11.45am – We set the table together and settle down ready for some lunch.

12pm – Hands are washed and a nutritious lunch is served.

12.40pm – Sleep time for the little ones and free play for the older children.

2pm – Coats and shoes on and off we go to the park. All children are happy and enjoying the fresh air.

3pm – School pick up. The older children run out happily telling us all about their day.

3.10pm – We arrive home and wash hands for snack. Afterwards the children enjoy playing in the garden with the balls. We have fun kicking, throwing and rolling them to each other.

3.50pm – Music time!!! We get the instruments out and each child chooses what they would like to sing. All children involved including the baby who enjoys exploring the different sounds.

4.15pm – Free play. Children enjoy drawing pictures, doing jigsaws and playing games. I enjoy a cuddle with the baby and set out a selection of rattles.

4.40pm -Tidy up time. We sit together to read a story and chat about our day.

4.50pm – Children continue to look at books and chat amongst themselves whilst I prepare tea. The baby sits in the high chair with a soft book exploring it with her hands and mouth.

5pm – Hands washed and children help set the table. Dinner is served.

5.30—Parents arrive and the children are eager to tell them what they have been doing. Coats, shoes and pictures are found and the children leave with big smiles on their faces.

Sample Menu

The sample menu below is an example of the meals I provide and can be tailored to suit individual needs. I cook all meals from fresh ensuring they are healthy, balanced and nutritious.

For breakfast I provide a selection of healthy cereals and allow the children to choose which they would prefer.

I also provide a snack in both the morning and afternoon which includes a drink of milk, examples of which are as follows:

- Crumpets
- Muffins
- Fresh fruit
- Bread sticks and raisons
- Cheese and grapes

Day	Lunch	Dinner
Monday	Spaghetti bolognese served with a side salad and homemade bread Fromage frais	Homemade pizza Strawberries and cream
Tuesday	Chicken casserole served with seasonal vegetables and mashed potato Homemade fruit cake	Tuna and sweet corn pasta served with a side salad Melon and grapes
Wednesday	Fish pie served with carrots and broccoli Banana custard	Homemade vegetable soup with crusty bread Carrot cake
Thursday	Mild chilli with rice served with garlic bread Angel delight	Jacket potato with beans and cheese Fresh fruit
Friday	Corned beef hash served with vegetables Semolina with sultanas	Ham sandwiches served with cucumber and carrot sticks Fromage frais

Sample Weaning Menu

Below is a sample menu of the food I provide for babies from six months. The menu is packed with healthy and nutritious meals and can be tailored to meet the needs of all children within my care. I would like to work alongside parents to devise a menu that would best suit their child's needs.

	6-9 Months Lunch	6-9 Months Dinner	9-12 Months Lunch	9-12 Months Dinner
Monday	Carrot puree Apple Puree	Potato, cheese and onion Puree Strawberry and banana puree	Chicken and Apricot curry Fromage frais	Assorted sandwiches cucumber sticks Banana
Tuesday	Sweet potato and squash puree Pear puree	Chicken puree with leek and apricot Fromage frais	Tomato and carrot bolognaise with pasta stars Carrot cake	Homemade pizza Orange segments
Wednesday	Fillet of fish with cheesy vegetable sauce Peach puree	Broccoli, cauliflower and parsnip Banana and apple Puree	Pork, apple, potato and carrots with gravy Semolina	Beans on toast Melon
Thursday	Beef, butternut squash and tomato puree Fromage frais	Carrot and swede puree Custard	Cottage pie with vegetables Banana and custard	Vegetable soup with homemade bread Fruit cake
Friday	Potato and carrot mash with salmon Pureed banana	Chicken puree with leek and apricot Semolina	Corned beef hash with carrots and broccoli Fruit salad with cream	Cheese and ham muffins Rice pudding