

Providing Opportunities for Each Child

Welcome



عَلَيْكُمْ السَّلاَمُ

Dear Parent,

We hope you receive this in the best of health and Imaan.

**All about us**

Rida Early Years opened its doors in September 2019 with an aim to provide an outstanding Early Years education. At Rida we nurture and develop the whole child, providing opportunities for each child to discover and progress their own unique abilities and talents.

We provide a welcoming, caring and safe learning environment for our children with an Islamic ethos at the heart of it all. At Rida the education offered is a balance between formal learning and learning through play. Rida offers a strong sense of community and provides a warm and nurturing environment.

The following welcome pack is intended to give you all the information you need for starting at Rida Early Years. We aim to reassure you that your child will be well looked after in all aspects of care and learning.

Our Staff

All of our Early Years Practitioners are qualified as a minimum to Level 3 in childcare.

Each child will be assigned their own keyperson who will work closely with both the child and the parents. This person will also help your child to settle into the nursery.

Our Apas will always make time to talk to you, provide any information you need or address any concerns. If you don’t see your keyperson on arrival or collection, please ask.

**Our Facilities**

The entrance to Rida Nursery is located on South Street, on arrival children are welcomed by staff and encouraged to self-register. Each child will have their own coat peg for their coats and bags. The unit is situated over three separate indoor rooms with play and learning areas scattered throughout which enable both planned and freeflow learning. The fourth area is our outdoor playground where we can mirror these areas in another environment. Please take time to come in and look around.

**Our Learning**

Staff will follow the interests of each child, by planning a natural but stimulating environment with a balance of adult guided and child led activities. We believe in the importance of outdoor as well as indoor play. This allows children the opportunity to explore and develop a desire for learning, solving problems and thinking critically.

We aim to provide the highest quality education for all our children and so will introduce enjoyable, varied learning experiences from an early age to develop confident and independent individuals.

Online Learning journals (Tapestry)

Each child will have their own personal online learning journal which is a record of their achievements. It will gradually fill up with photos, examples of their work and records of observations carried out by the keypersons. You can access these at any by downloading the Tapestry App and logging in with the password provided by the school.

These journals are used to evidence the learning and identify areas where the child could use more learning. This is in accordance with the government guidelines: Early Years Foundation Stage Framework 2014. Parents are encouraged to upload any photos or pieces of work they do at home to add to the journal.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

This is how the Government and Early Years professionals describe the time in the child’s life between 0 and 5. For all childcare establishments it sets out the 7 areas of learning and development which guide us to engage the child in effective learning and play. Also sets out assessments to inform you of your child’s progress and the expected levels that your child should reach at the age of 5 / the end of reception year. These are called the Early Learning Goals.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

* Communication and language;
* Physical development;
* Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child’s healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

* Literacy;
* Mathematics;
* Understanding the world;
* Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child’s learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child’s unique needs.

This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing throughout the EYFS through keyperson observations. The EYFS is broken down into four age bands, called Development Matters bands, 16-26 months, 22-36 months, 30-50 months and 40-60 months. For each age band there is a series of statements relating to a child’s development. These statements are guidelines for the practitioners to help with the assessment.

Within each age band there are three separate levels of achievement:

* Expected: your child is working at the expected level for his age
* Emerging: your child is working below the expected level
* Exceeding: your child is working above the expected level

Characteristics of Effective Learning

When you first join our setting, to help us get to know your child more quickly, we will invite you to complete a baseline interview about what you know your child can already do or areas that we need to focus on. This will done in Day 1-2 after joining. After week 5 we will ask you to return to have a baseline meeting and to discuss your child’s “characteristic of effective learning”. At this meeting we will share our baseline results with you after spending time with the child and also we will have had time to assess how your child likes to learn.

Three Characteristics of Effective Learning:

1. Playing and Exploring (engagement, having a go)
2. Active Learning (motivation, keeping trying)
3. Creating and Thinking Critically (thinking, having own ideas, choosing ways to do)



SMSCD

Alongside the 7 areas of learning we are consistently developing your child’s Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning. This is evident throughout the day and may be seen through our themes and activities, we encourage you to get involved at home with these areas by promoting tolerance, independence and extra-curricular interests, as well as developing them as an active British citizen and a positive Islamic role model for the community.

How you can help

At Rida we feel it is crucial for the children’s well-being, learning and development to build effective relationships with parents as you are the children’s first and most enduring educators. When parents and practitioners work together, the results have a positive impact on the development both academically and Islamically. We urge you to attend any reviews or workshops to aid this relationship.

Other ways in which you can help to mirror our environment at home and help us with the learning are outlined as follows:

* Positive praise
* Setting clear boundaries
* 10-12 hours’ sleep
* Limited access to electronic devices, iPad etc
* Encourage writing and cutting and sticking
* Cook / bake with the child
* Reading
* Praying duas
* Outdoor play in all weathers
* Promote healthy eating and snacks, no fizzy drinks, etc.

Our Reviews

We will invite you to attend a meeting with your child keyperson, usually once per term. During the review the progress of your child will be discussed and each child will be given an IET. This is an “Individual Educational Target”. The keypersons analyse the wealth of information we gather about each child and identify any of the learning areas where the child could either benefit from some help to achieve or we have seen an opportunity to help them reach towards the early learning goals.

**Charges**

Fees

For those children that are not eligible for government funding, the cost will be £5.00 per hour.

Snacks

Here at Rida Nursery, snack time is an important part of the day where we encourage good Islamic eating habits, cleanliness and practice duas. We are keen to ensure we provide a variety of healthy and enjoyable snacks. The cost per snack will be 15p. Milk is provided free of charge.

Lunch

If your child is staying with us for lunch, we ask that you send in a healthy packed lunch. Staff will be supervising and supporting the children during this time.

Invoices

Invoices will be issued at the start of each term and we kindly request all payments reach us by the end of the first week.

**Useful Information**

Session Times

Breakfast Club: 7.30am - 8.30am

Session 1: 8.30am – 11.30am

Session 2: 12.00pm – 3.00pm

We can offer flexible hours and days, please speak to the Nursery Manager for more information.

Settling In Procedure

At nursery stage we encourage parents to stay with child until the child is ready to be left. The following is a guideline of the settling in procedure when a child starts pre-school.

Day 1: We suggest that you stay with your child and spend an hour together in the setting.

This will normally be enough for your child’s first day.

Day 2: You will be invited to accompany your child for one and a half hours in the setting.

All being well, you will be encouraged to leave your child for half an hour during this time to see how well they manage on their own.

Day 3: Your child may be ready to stay by him/herself for the full session.

Younger children may take longer to settle in, as will children who have not previously spent time away from home. Children who have had a period of absence may require assistance to be settled again. Please be available during this period. More information is available on the website: Settling In Policy.

Designated Person for Collection

A Child will only be handed over to the person designated to collect by the parents. This will be specified at admission. If another adult is to collect the child then please call the school to advise.

Uniform

Presently there is no uniform for nursery children, but this may be under review shortly. For now we ask you dress appropriately for the weather with sensible shoes, coat and hat always available for outdoor play. We also request you remember Islamic etiquette when dressing the children for nursery (no bare arms or legs for girls and shorts to the knees for boys).

Please ensure names are on everything including shoes.

Spare Clothes and Wellies

Please send spare clothing clearly labelled with your child’s name to nursery, in a small bag preferably a fabric pump bag – no rucksack and no plastic carrier bags due to health and safety reasons. Please also leave a pair of (labelled) wellington boots and a raincoat, in school, in case of wet weather.

Toilet Training

If your child is not yet toilet trained then please provide nappies or pull ups, wipes and nappy sacks and we will be happy to look after their toilet needs.

Class DOJO

Class Dojo is a school communication platform for teachers, students and families. We regularly share what children are learning in the classroom through photos, videos and messages. We also use this to send announcements and letters to parents. Once your child has started with us, we will send you an invitation to join Class Dojo and download the app.

Late Policy

Parents are requested to arrive at the contracted time to collect and pick up their child. If your child is going to arrive late or you are delayed in picking up, please inform the nursery beforehand. For further information, please refer to the nursery late policy which can be found on our website.

Absence

We believe it is imperative that your child attends every session for their personal development, however if your child is going to be absent for any reason, please inform the nursery as soon as possible. PLEASE NOTE invoices are issued and paid in advance therefore charges are still applicable if a child is absent.

Website

We direct you to [www.ridanursery.org.uk](http://www.ridanursery.org.uk) for all information including all policy documents and Ofsted inspection information.

Finally, we look forward to working with you and your family and we hope this will be the first of many steps your child will take towards success in this life and the hereafter.

Wasalaam,

**Staff and Governors of Rida Nursery**

