



SQUIRRELS DAYCARE & PRE-SCHOOL

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Waterlooville

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OFSTED No: EY291992

Squirrels Day Care is an established group that has been running in the local community for the past 20 years. Since the opening of the Acorn Community Centre in August 2004 Squirrels Day Care has leased a purpose built wing of centre and has developed outstanding links with the local community, families and other professionals. The area of the setting has been flagged by the government as a designated area of social deprivation. Demographically it has a high number of single young parents in comparison with other wards and comprises mainly of low level housing with some shared accommodation, maisonettes and low rise flats. The setting is full day care and caters for children from three months to twelve years and is open from 7.00am-6.00pm, fifty weeks of the year. The majority of the children that attend the setting are from the local community with a few from the surrounding area, often living in flats or accommodation that does not allow the children free access to an outside area. Wrap around care is offered to parents for older children with school drop off and pickups for children over five years, including holiday and inset day care, this is to enable parents to return to work if required.

Squirrels Day Care is a family run business and is very much aware of the delicate balance between work and family life. Therefore they make every effort to help families on all aspects of both areas. Squirrels strive to support children's development in all areas so they may grow to be strong, independent individuals based on loving and secure relationships. The children in their care are all valued as individuals and are respected as such. Squirrels provide a family type atmosphere where all the children can learn through play in a safe, fun and very caring environment.

The outside area is used all year round; the children have free access to this area allowing them the choice of being inside or out. The outside area is resourced with a wide range of opportunities for child initiated learning and activities that cover the whole curriculum. We aim for our outdoor play to be a valuable, successful and enjoyable experience for children. However due to the portable fencing some opportunities are limited due to windy weather and the fencing limitation.

When the setting is closed and the portable fencing is packed away the area is opened to the public which has had a detrimental effect not only to the side of the building with chalked graffiti but people are urinating in the corner of the building. Subsequently the area has to be fully cleaned as excrement and urine are found on a regular accuracy. Local constabulary and environmental health have given support in counteracting this

but to no effect. Also on several occasions' lighters and part burnt fires have been found which have been very close to the building.

Squirrels are applying for a permanent fence that is 2metre high due to the locality of the outside area and the risk of losing a child by a passing adult 'snatching' him/her. Also to stop the antisocial behaviour that is currently happening in the corner of the building. The fencing will be of the railings type and is the same as currently around the park area. This also enables passer bys to see that there is nothing of value kept inside to deter intruders, and tall enough to stop people from using it to climb on to the roof.

We feel that helping us to have permanent fencing will not only enhance the children's learning and development but will also help to ensure that the building is kept safe and free from antisocial behaviour that is happening there at the time being.

If you have any questions please contact us on the above address/number or visit to gain a clearer understanding of what is required and why.

Regards

Nicola Newton and Sue Stokes (owners/managers)