



PROSPECTUS



LITTLE FOREST EDUCATION CENTRE

FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS





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prospectus

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Letter from the Principal

Dear Readers,

It has been a long-term dream of mine to open a centre like Little Forest. After practicing speech therapy for over 16 years, I have realized that there are very few facilities that offer services which can educate and stimulate children with special educational needs. Many schools offer remedial and bridging services which follow mainstream curriculum but at an adapted pace, or are stimulation centres, which merely offer the basics of care. I wanted the in between. A loving and caring facility that parents can confidently leave their children to be facilitated in reaching their potential, whatever that may be.



Kate More
Principal / Owner

Individualised education plans, and as much one on one facilitation as possible, allows children to learn at their own pace while still having the benefit of social interactions within a classroom setting. This teaching methodology is facilitated by teachers with a therapeutic background, who have an in-depth knowledge of how children develop as well as the needs and challenges these children face. The education plans also follow the national curriculum as far as possible, to allow our children to attend more formal education when they are ready.

The name Little Forest came about from my love of gardening and the outdoors merged with the thought that no matter how bent a tree may be, it still continues to grow, and if supported properly, can grow strong and steady. This is my dream for all the children in my Little Forest, that they can receive the support they need to grow strong and steady.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KMoe'.

Kate More

Vision and Mission

Little Forest Centre aims to facilitate communication and learning for children with a variety of severe communication difficulties. Specialised teachers and an individualized curriculum which focuses on communication in every lesson, allows for children to learn and grow within their abilities.

Each child is treated holistically and according to their individual needs in order to reach their full potential.



Admissions

Little Forest Centre accepts any child who is unable to learn in a traditional remedial setting and requires an intense and structured learning environment. Teaching is provided with English as the medium of instruction.

Children of all abilities levels are accepted, as each child is assessed individually and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is tailor made for each child.

The centre currently accommodates children from 18 months up to the age of ten years.

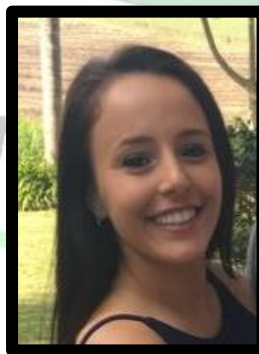
Staff

The staff at Little Forest Centre are all well trained and experienced.

The teachers are qualified speech therapists, who bring a different dynamic to a traditional remedial teaching style. The ratio of staff to children never exceeds 5:1. This is evaluated according to the needs of the children and smaller classes may be required for some children.



Zulaikha Goolam
Teacher



Nicole Ferriera
Teacher



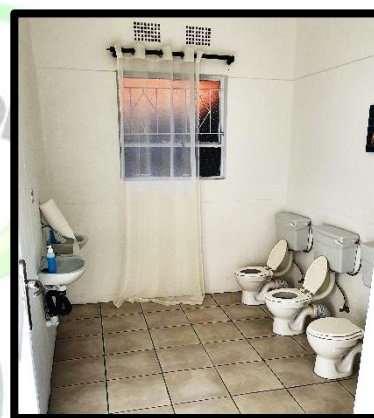
Violet Mello
Teacher's Assistant



Staff and Resource Room

School Times

07h00	Children may start arriving for school to be received by the staff
07h30	Breakfast
08h00 – 09h30	Academic time
09h30	Snack time
10h00 – 11h00	Outside play
11h00 – 12h30	Academic time
12h30	Lunch
13h00 – 14h30	Quiet time (Children may sleep or sit quietly)
14h30 – 17h00	Aftercare (Afternoon snack is around 15h00)



Collection time is **STRICTLY** at 17h00 and a fee will be charged for late collection of children after 17h00.

Mattresses are provided by the school for quiet time; however, each child should bring their own blanket and pillow.

Toilet breaks are taken throughout the day including those potty training as well as nappy changing.

Curriculum and Individual Education Plan

For the first week after admission, each child undergoes an assessment using the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLLS). This comprehensive assessment covers a range of learning areas and activities of daily living that children with special educational needs often struggle with.

Normative data is available for this assessment which allows the teacher to assess whether a particular target is in fact age appropriate before deciding if it needs to be included in the IEP. An IEP meeting is scheduled with the therapists, teachers and parents to discuss the goals indicated for the child.

Once the ABLLS has been completed on admission and the IEP has been signed off by all parties, the teacher works within the class on areas set out in the CAPS national curriculum. The adaption to the CAPS curriculum are made according to the results of the ABLLS. As each child is taught individually, the curriculum can be paced according to each child.



We believe that children learn best through play and exploring their environment. For this reason, any teaching method which works for a child, will be tried and explored. As tabletop or paper-based tasks may not be appropriate for many of our learners, the sandpit, outdoor chalk wall, windows, mirrors, and white boards may be used. In order to monitor the progress of children while using this range of teaching methods, photographs of their work is uploaded into a “virtual workbook” which can then be sent home via email and kept on record electronically.

Classes

There are three classrooms at Little Forest. Children are divided roughly into ages, abilities and diagnoses. The divisions are based on the children’s social skills rather than academic skills, as academics are taught individually and therefore do not affect the children’s learning abilities.

Classes are no bigger than five children per adult and there are always 2 adults present in each classroom.



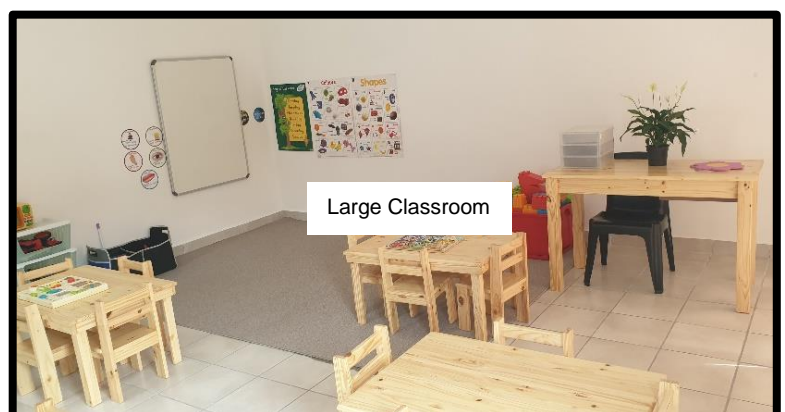
Small Classroom



Middle Classroom

The morning social circle is done in the large classroom with all children and staff present. This is a nice way to start the day and for us all to touch base and socialize. Hereafter, classes disperse, and the day continues.

Classrooms are plain and minimal distractions are placed on walls and ceilings to facilitate concentration and attention. Individual teaching sessions are done to one side with a divider to minimize distraction.



Large Classroom

Holidays

Little Forest Centre does not strictly follow either four term or three term school holidays. This is due to many parents not having alternative childcare.

The school will be closed for three weeks, spread throughout the year, as well as from a week before Christmas to a week into the new year.

Menu

Little Forest has a child friendly and healthy menu with fresh fruit and vegetables served daily with snacks and meals. While we cannot accommodate for special diets (e.g. diabetics, gluten intolerance, etc), we are able to adapt the food according to the requirements of each child (e.g. mashed, pureed, etc).

Sensory snacks are also incorporated into the menu (e.g. popcorn and raisins).

Dysphagic children or those with feeding difficulties are also accommodated where possible.

Parents are welcome to send their own food or snacks for their children.



Kitchen

Therapy

Therapy services are provided by the Children's Therapy Centre which is located next door to Little Forest Centre. There is an interlinking gate between the two properties which allows children to be collected by the therapists without having to essentially, leave the property.

All therapy is privately provided, and parents are required to make arrangements with the therapists directly. The Children's Therapy Centre contact number is 011 803 1321.

The Children's Therapy Centre has a comprehensive team of therapists including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, psychology, dietetics, chiropractic services, baby gym, baby massage, breastfeeding support groups, and moms and babes classes.

Therapists and teachers work closely together to ensure carryover of therapy targets into broader day to day activities.



The Playground

The Little Forest Centre has a large outdoor play area. This consists of a bike track, a trampoline, a sensory walk, two jungle gyms, and a large grass area.

A large gross motor room as well as a patio area, allow for indoor play should weather not permit outside play.



Large wooden jungle gym under the trees



Smaller jungle gym surrounded by a bike track, a ground level trampoline and a sandpit

Sensory Room



Little Forest Centre has a sensory room which incorporates many different sensory aspects such as swings, a ball pit, a tent, munch mats, music and lights. This space is used for a child or children who require some sensory time. It can be used either on an individual basis, or with small groups.

Extra Murals

There are a few extra mural activities available as an additional extra. These include Beauxarts (an arts and crafts activity), music, and dancing.

Safety and Security

Safety and security of our children is paramount at Little Forest Centre. All staff have police clearance and have undergone a rigorous interview process and teachers have also undergone psychometric evaluations to determine their appropriateness to their role.

All children are signed in and out by the individual who is dropping them or collecting them from school. Should someone who is not regularly involved with a child collect them, notice in writing is required from the parents / guardian of that child.

Therapists / teachers are required to sign the therapy register should a child attend therapy at the Children's Therapy Centre in order to keep track of where each child is at all times. No child may be left unattended.

All staff are CPR certified and emergency numbers are available with easy access to all staff members.

ER 24 as well as Sunninghill Hospital are within 5km should an emergency arise.



Contact Details

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Petravale