

“Children have ample, suitable, resources and planned activities to reflect the diversity of the modern world”

Ofsted Inspection Report



Cranbrook

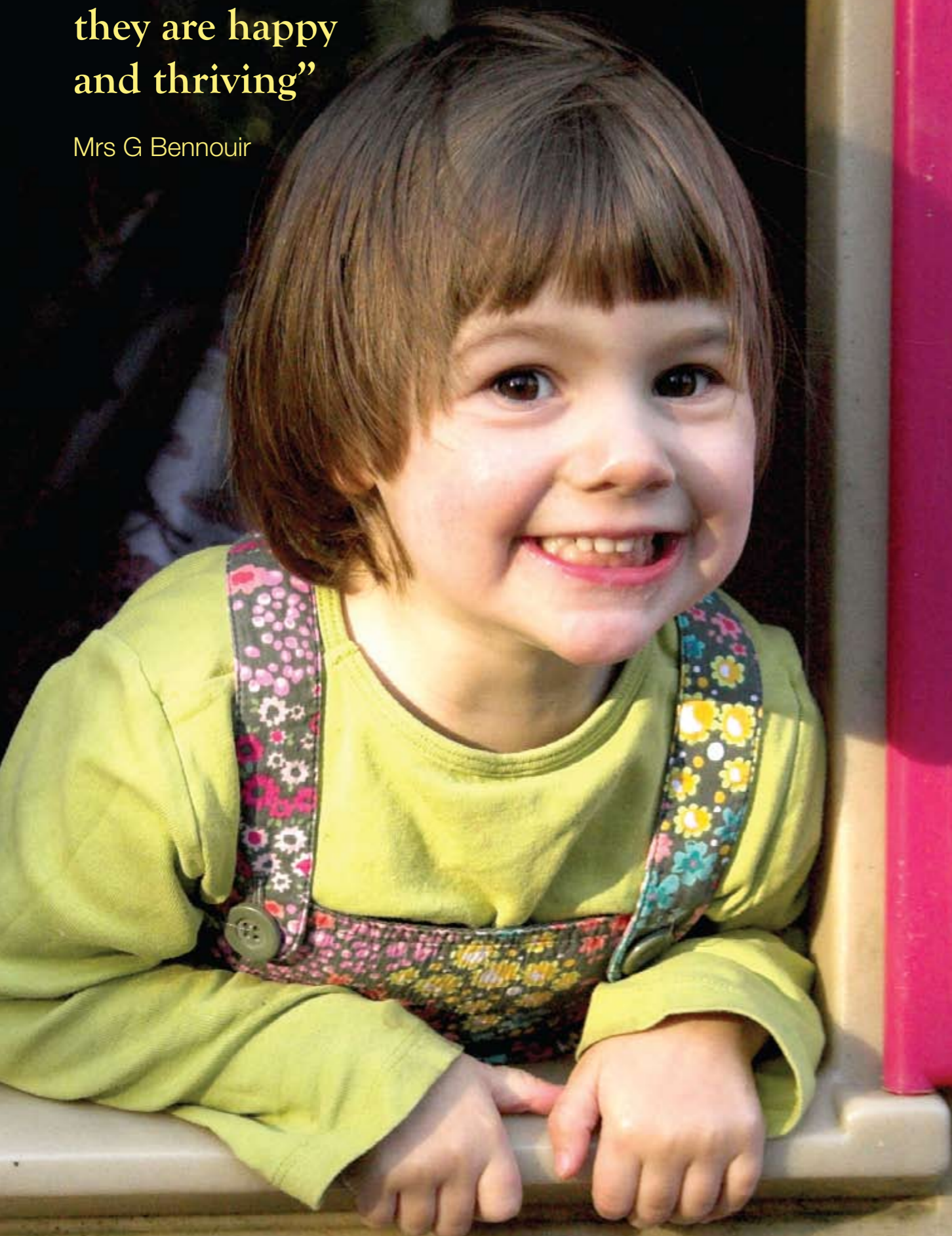
Independent Nursery & Pre-School



Your child's education and future start with us...

“I feel happy returning to work when I know I am leaving my child at a nursery where they are happy and thriving”

Mrs G Bennouir



Welcome to Cranbrook

We understand that choosing a nursery or pre-school that is right for both you and your child can be a difficult decision, which is why we do our best to make it as easy as possible.

We offer everything you would expect from an Ofsted registered nursery and pre-school such as excellent standards of daily care and education; a nurturing and safe environment, freshly-prepared food, and well maintained buildings and outdoor areas. But what makes Cranbrook popular with parents is that we make any arrangement work for all concerned, you, your child and us. For example, our flexible opening hours, breakfast and after-school clubs and holiday programmes are all available to help take the strain out of your daily routine, and for many parents with changeable rosters and shifts, these services have proved invaluable.

In fact many parents tell us that for their child, Cranbrook is a 'home from home' because we accommodate their needs rather than the other way around. This, we believe, is the essence of Cranbrook. Here you will find an approach to childcare and education that sets the standards rather than just simply following them; an approach that sees beyond the 'requirements'. We can do this because we pay attention to the detail, such as a child's likes and dislikes; habits and routines. In short, we provide an environment that your child positively wants to come to, whether that's once or twice a week, or every day.

There are many factors that make Cranbrook the number one choice for parents, not least the experience, dedication and enthusiasm of all of our staff. We are very fortunate that most have been with us for many years. Not only have they watched the children grow and develop until they leave for 'big' school but also the staff members themselves have benefited from working with colleagues they know and trust; both of which help foster a sense of belonging for the children while at the same time enhancing their emotional security.


Our dedication stems from one single goal and that is to provide the best possible care and education for your child. We believe that the most effective way to achieve this is to ensure your child is happy. For a child to be happy they need to be busy, and to be busy, they need to be engaged with their environment. This ethos is evident throughout all of our nursery and pre-school settings, from Balcombe to Horley and Maidenbower to Charlwood.

We hope our Prospectus provides some insight into our ethos here at Cranbrook as well as providing you with the detail you need to make your choice. However, there is no better way to know if an organisation is right for you and your child than to visit it first-hand. So we do hope you will give us an opportunity to show how we can provide a 'home from home' for your child too.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Robert Shannon
Managing Director





“Holly is really happy here.
Staff really care which makes a
lovely environment for them
to have fun and learn”

Mr & Mrs Yates

Meeting the needs of today's parents and children

There are many reasons why parents enrol their child at nursery or pre-school but whatever they are, all parents share one single experience and that is the emotional wrench of leaving their child in someone else's care. We recognise this is a powerful driver in your selection criteria and it is because we understand this that we do our utmost to make a visit to Cranbrook feel like an outing to see extended family.

We also understand that the desire to know what your child is up to is very strong which is why we positively encourage two-way communication between parents and staff. Parents will often find an email from us too with photos attached showing their child in action and, if a child has made a particular development breakthrough our staff will be proactive and call the parents to let them know. So as you can see, we do our best to share your child's day with you, where you are.

We could go on about the fully resourced designated areas where the children play and learn; and about our ability to be flexible to your schedule, and how your child will be fed freshly-prepared, nutritious food but we won't because we know that you would expect this and much more.

What you may not know is that your child will be assigned a key person who will monitor their development and report back their progress to you during the regular review meetings. Your child's key person will get to know all their habits, routines and idiosyncrasies such as which side their teddy sleeps or which is their favourite food or game.

Ask for more details about our 'Key Person Programme' when you visit us.

Preparing your child for their tomorrow

As you would expect, Cranbrook follows rigorously the Government's curriculum, the Early Years Foundation Stage, which of course, every nursery and pre-school is required to do, and Cranbrook is no different. However, the difference is in the 'how' which is reflected in our results – you will find the latter in the latest Ofsted reports for Cranbrook on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

We believe our success is due to getting the right balance between child-led and adult directed learning opportunities, which can be directly attributed to the ongoing training and professional development of our staff. These two factors play a vital role in meeting the educational needs of a child as well as offer the opportunity for learning social interaction through one-to-one or group activities and play.

Educational experts and our own experience tell us that to encourage learning and co-operation we need to accommodate a child's routine, needs and desires. We have proved successful in this endeavour for both the child and Ofsted. In short, when a child enjoys an activity or task, they will retain the learning more effectively – for example, a child can learn colours (and numbers) just as effectively by playing with cars and imaginary traffic lights as they can by rote.



“I am very happy leaving my son at Cranbrook; the staff are a tribute to the nursery”

Mrs G Bennour



Frequently asked questions

Q1. What will my child be doing at Cranbrook?

Our young babies enjoy a specially designed nursery area where the team provide them with individual attention and play in-between the child's feeding and sleep routine, and for those quiet times, they can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a dedicated sleeping room.

Our two to three year olds enjoy a vibrant and fun-filled environment in which to explore, play and interact with both staff and their fellow playmates. Every activity is an opportunity to have fun and learn from eating together and toilet training to co-ordination and verbal tasks.

For our pre-school children, the focus is on preparing them for 'big' school but that's not to say they don't have fun doing it! They follow a balanced timetable covering subjects such as music, dance and art to basic reading, writing and arithmetic... and computer studies! The children work towards the 'Early Learning Goals' as their curriculum, being part of Ofsted's 'Foundation Stage'.

Q2. What is the food like?

The plates are usually left spotless which is a great compliment to our cooks. The food is all freshly-prepared and cooked, and follows a menu that has been approved by a qualified nutritionist, so your child will get the five-a-day foods during meal and snack times. Plus we aim to accommodate most food preferences whether for personal or medical reasons.

Q3. My child always sleeps at a particular time during the day, how will this work with your routine?

Your child's routine at home will be mirrored at their nursery or pre-school. For example, if they are used to having a sleep after lunch then they will sleep after lunch at Cranbrook.

Q4. What if I get the urge to ring up and find out what my child's up to? Can I call?

Yes, you are very welcome to call at any time and as many times as you wish. We will also call you if they have a specific piece of news or to give you an update. We often email photos to parents at work or home so they can see for themselves what their children are up to or have produced that day.

Q5. How qualified are the staff? How often do you have to replace staff?

We are very fortunate to have such experienced and qualified staff. They are a highly motivated group of individuals who not only happily undertake the latest Ofsted training but also proactively participate in ongoing professional development.

Many of our staff members have been with us for many years during which time they have seen babies arrive and then leave as youngsters well-prepared for 'big' school. This longevity of service provides a vital benefit for children and parents alike; for children it provides continuity which is invaluable in helping them to feel reassured and secure; for parents, it's equally reassuring to know their child is being looked after by a team of people whom their child knows and is happy to see each day.

What's more, our staff benefit too, by working with the same people each day, they get to know each other very well, which has an extremely positive effect on their performance as a team.

Q6. How do I know how my child is progressing?

Each child is assigned a key person who will monitor their individual development, physically, educationally and emotionally. This information is recorded and will be shared with you at the regular review meetings or sooner if appropriate.



“Every child deserves the best possible start in life, with support to fulfil their potential”

DFES 2007



Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the curriculum for all nurseries and pre-schools registered with Ofsted. This curriculum not only sets the educational criteria for the learning and development of babies and children up to the age of five years but also shapes the high standards of practice. Its central aim is to help young people achieve the ‘Every Child Matters’ outcomes:

- Staying safe
- Being healthy
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making positive contributions
- Achieving economic well-being.

It is a framework which we at Cranbrook embrace wholeheartedly, from activities, resource and staff training through to policies, practices and leadership.

“A child’s experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. The Early Years Foundation Stage is the framework that provides that assurance.”

DFES, 2007

Another key aspect of the Early Years Foundation Stage is the ratio between staff and children, and as you would expect, Cranbrook complies with the statutory requirements and in many instances, exceeds them by having a higher ratio of staff to children. This means that your child will not only benefit from individual staff attention and monitoring but also a real opportunity for the staff to get to know your child and to find the best way to help them develop.



“The children have lots of opportunity for creative activities and staff encourage them to write their own names on their work”

Ofsted Report 2006



Don't just take our word for it

Many of our parents tell us how happy they feel leaving their child with us because they know they are being well-cared for and loved. In fact, the children have such a nice time they sometimes don't want to go home!

“My daughter has been going to Cranbrook since she was 6 months old, she's two now. The staff are absolutely fantastic with the children and it is great to hear all the fun things they do.”

D Woodhams

When it comes to choosing a nursery or pre-school, we know that parents have strict criteria; they tell us their top criteria are as follows:

Opening hours ✓ Healthy, freshly-prepared food ✓
Qualified and friendly staff ✓ Atmosphere and presentation ✓
Cleanliness and hygiene ✓ Ofsted reports ✓

“All of the above criteria are important to us – luckily for us Cranbrook meets them all.”

Mrs G Penn

Another way in which parents tell us how they feel about Cranbrook is through the ‘thank you’ cards we receive, mainly from children leaving to go to ‘big’ school. You will find them displayed on the walls when you visit us.

“To everyone at the Farmhouse. A very big thank you to you all. Max and Daddy can't express how grateful we both are for helping, supporting, teaching and loving Max.”

Jeremy and Max

“To everyone at the Farmhouse. Many thanks for taking care and looking after Cameron for us. The Farmhouse is a very special nursery where the staff and children always seem happy. Cameron loved the Farmhouse, and I'm sure he'll miss it. Again, many thanks...”

Sue, Paul, Alexander, Nicholas and Cameron Allen

“I feel relaxed and secure to leave my child at Cranbrook. He's really happy there”

Mrs A Baker

Here are just a few things Ofsted has said about us in their latest reports...

‘Staff are vigilant in addressing all babies’ individual needs and ensure that all relevant information is exchanged with parents. The daily routine is planned very well to enable all babies to have sufficient rest periods, according to their needs. Babies follow their own sleeping patterns.’

‘The children have a varied range of toys and resources to provide them with enjoyment and to promote their learning and development in all areas.’

‘The children have lots of opportunity for creative activities and staff encourage them to write their own names on their work.’

‘Children have ample, suitable, resources and planned activities to reflect the diversity of the modern world.’

Quotes from Ofsted Inspection Report – 2006



“They create a fun-filled environment where all the children feel valued and cherished”

Mrs A Baker



The Cranbrook Group

All of our nurseries and pre-schools are bound together by the Cranbrook ethos that demands exceptional standards of care and education, and yet at the same time, each one has its own individual and unique character. Perhaps this individuality is accentuated because the style and setting of each property is different. Or maybe it reflects the way in which each nursery and pre-school adjust to fit the needs and schedule of their parents. No doubt there are many possible reasons but one thing is certain: your child will be royally welcomed and cared for.

There is more good news! We offer 'Before and After-School Clubs' and 'Holiday Programmes' for children between the ages of 4 and 11 years. These have proved a real life saver for many parents, especially during the long summer and winter holidays.

A list of our nursery, pre-school and club settings are available on request.

Our heritage

Cranbrook started life in the 1940s as a modest boarding school based in Cranbrook, Kent. By the 1960s, we relocated to Horley and saw our first nursery school open. However, it was only open in the mornings and during term time, quite a contrast to today's Cranbrook.

What has not changed is the support we aim to provide to parents. We remain dedicated to offering the most flexible provision of child-care possible without compromising on the quality of care or the child's well-being.

Cranbrook looking forward

We plan to continue raising the bar of future childcare provision by challenging complacency and pioneering a forward thinking approach today and every day. One way we will achieve this is to continue making significant investment in our staff by supporting their training and ongoing professional development. This is because Cranbrook's success to date can be attributed to the dedication of our staff and their leadership. How this manifests day-to-day is in the excellent relationships that our staff members have with the children and their parents.

We know that Cranbrook is only as good as the relationship between our staff and our customers (the big ones and the little ones!) and we plan to continue listening and responding to parents' needs, quickly and effectively.



“My child is doing very well at his nursery. I am very confident that he is looked after and loved. He seems really happy there”

Mrs T Cairns



Our commitment

This is the section where you could ask what's the point of a 'commitment statement', because we would say that wouldn't we? Well, we believe making such a statement offers you and our staff the opportunity to ensure that our actions match these words every day:

“We are committed to supporting parents, ensuring the wellbeing of their children and providing our staff with ongoing training and professional development.”

[Robert Shannon, Managing Director](#)

What next?

We appreciate that our Prospectus is one way of showing you how we do things here at Cranbrook but as we said at the start, there's no better way to know if an organisation is right for you and your child than to see it for yourself first-hand. So why not call us today to arrange a visit so you can witness Cranbrook in action and judge for yourself how we could provide a 'home from home' for your child.

[To make an appointment call 01293 772 561](#)

In the meantime, if you have any further questions or queries, please call us on [01293 772 561](#) or visit www.cranbrooknursery.co.uk





Cranbrook

Independent Nursery & Pre-School

Tel 01293 772 561
Email admin@cranbrooknursery.co.uk
Web www.cranbrooknursery.co.uk

Your child's education and future start with us...