



Welcome to
The British School of Brussels
Early Childhood Centre

For children from 1 - 3 years of age

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Introduction

Our Early Childhood Centre was established in 1999.

Over the years the majority of our children have been enrolled through word of mouth referrals from current parents who are genuinely thrilled with the whole experience.

BSB's Early Childhood Centre is an English-speaking childcare facility which welcomes children of all nationalities between the ages of one and three years. It offers a caring, happy and stimulating pre-school setting, which is recognised for its high quality indoor and outdoor learning environment.

The staff are a committed and caring team whose main aim is to provide an appropriate early years environment to suit every child's needs.

In choosing us I know your child will be given the best possible start to their life of learning and friendships.



Karen Ward

Ms Karen Ward
DEPUTY HEAD OF PRIMARY SCHOOL

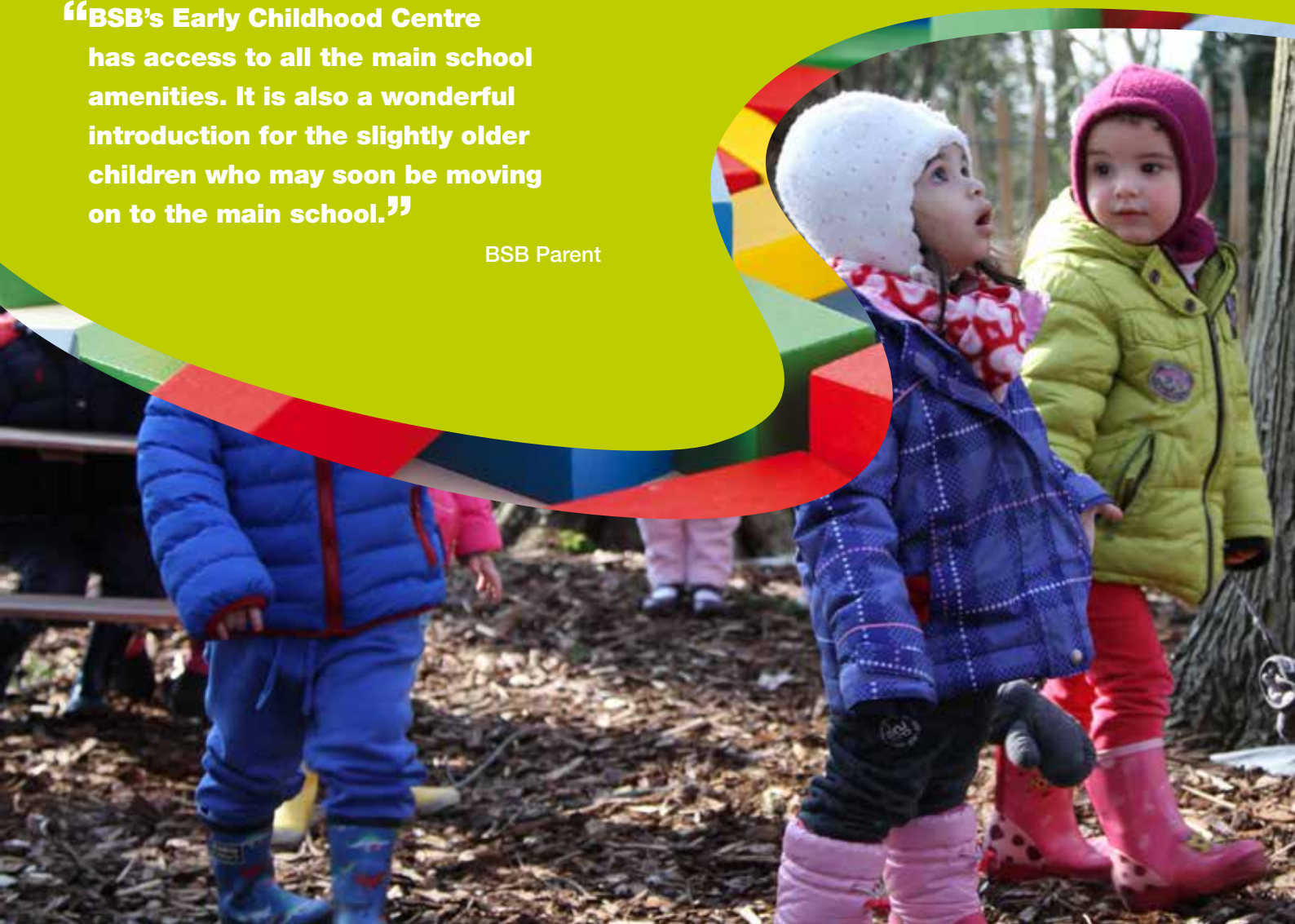


Why do families choose us?

- A good staff-to-child ratio with widely experienced and well-qualified staff
- There is a qualified nurse on call within the campus until 18.00
- The combined benefits of a large international school, for example, special meals prepared and delivered from the school catering team and specialist music staff
- Use of the Primary school Library, gym and playgrounds for the older children
- A certificate of approval from the Belgian organisation 'Kind and Gezin', confirming our Early Childhood Centre as a safe and appropriate setting for children
- A well-resourced environment and a quality outdoor area used by the children on a daily basis
- Recognition of the importance of nurturing every child as an individual to reach their developmental milestones

“BSB's Early Childhood Centre has access to all the main school amenities. It is also a wonderful introduction for the slightly older children who may soon be moving on to the main school.”

BSB Parent



Aims and objectives

At The British School of Brussels, we believe that every child is special. We provide all the children with a stimulating and nurturing environment within the safe confines of the Early Childhood Centre, garden and the wider BSB campus.

We follow the latest guidelines from the UK: 'The Early Years Foundation Stage' (EYFS). This is a framework to support children in their earliest years and offers practical guidance for staff working with babies and young children. The framework is organised into four themes:





A Unique Child

This aspect of learning is linked to your child's social and emotional development. It is about helping your child to feel confident, self-assured and to enjoy being with others.



Positive Relationships

Learning to talk and communicate is an important skill for the very young child to master. This aspect looks at the importance of listening and responding sensitively to babies and toddlers, as well as looking at ways to promote language actively through stories, rhymes and toys.



Enabling Environments

Babies and toddlers are naturally curious and ready to explore their immediate world. We know from research that moving and exploring in an active way helps babies' and toddlers' brain development. This aspect of learning looks at how to help babies and toddlers understand and respond to their world by, for example, being given new sensations, and new items to feel, touch and hold.



Learning & Development

This area looks at developing 'the whole child', and includes food, safety and hygiene. This aspect of learning is also about making sure that children are emotionally secure, and starting to learn about taking decisions.

These four strands come together through the wide choice of activities always available at our Early Childhood Centre, for example art, construction toys, role play, sand and water, music, gym and stories. Our approach is friendly, informal and highlights safety, ensuring that children are able to move on confidently to Kindergarten at the age of three.

'The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework' is not a formal curriculum. In fact, it has been deliberately designed to avoid 'subjects' or lists of activities that children have to do. You may, however, find that staff observe your child and use their observations to plan activities and put out toys that are of particular interest to your child and his or her creative, physical, emotional, social and intellectual development.



“We couldn’t be more pleased with the staff, atmosphere, resources and activities. Most of all, my children are happy - and that makes me happy too.”

BSB Parent

Frequently asked questions...

HOW WILL THIS FRAMEWORK BENEFIT MY CHILD?

This framework of four themes is based on some of the latest research about how to provide the best childcare environments for children. It emphasises the importance of children being active in their learning and also the way in which a principal carer can help a child to develop.



HOW CAN I HELP WITH THE TRANSITION BETWEEN HOME AND THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE?

The more we know about your child, the better we can support him or her. You can arrange an appointment with staff in order to pass on any information and ask any questions before your child joins. Before arrival, we also ask all parents and carers to fill in an 'About Me' information form and a confidential medical form.

We welcome communication and are very interested to hear about anything you have noticed at home concerning the development of your child. If, for example, you have seen a new skill or something that has fascinated your child, your child's principal carer can help to develop this. Likewise, if your child's principal carer identifies a new skill, you may wish to continue to explore this at home.

How to apply

The Early Childhood Centre age range is one to three years. Children are grouped according to age for most of the day and in mixed groups at other times, for example, when outside in the garden. A principal carer is responsible for your child's needs and is available to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. The major intake occurs in September, but children can join at any time during the year, providing a place is available.

We recommend that before applying, you visit us to discuss your needs and the availability of places. We recommend early registration in order to secure a place.

There is a separate application procedure to join Kindergarten in the main school. Applications for Kindergarten can be accepted 16 months ahead for a child who will be three years old by the required September entry date.





Whole Day Attendance

A whole day, including lunch is 08.10 to 18.00:

This is already a long day and we recommend a 17.00 pick up for non working parents.

Half-Day Attendance

Morning session: 08.10 to 12.00

Kindergarten Attendance

Once the children are eligible for Kindergarten (age three on or before 31 August), the following option is available, in addition to attendance in the school setting.

Post-Kindergarten (three year olds)

From 14.00 to 18.00

The children are taken to the Early Childhood Centre after Kindergarten in the afternoon. Collection by parents is from Kindercrib. This option is available every day, but priority will be given to parents who are both working.



“I liked the fact that when my daughter first started, I could ring up during the day, to reassure myself that she had settled. When you first enter, it is the child who is most important and this continues throughout their time there.”

BSB Parent



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inspiring success**

