

PROJECT PLAN



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Project Name:	Childcare Expansion Programme 2024 - 2026
Start date:	Spring/Summer Term 2025
Objectives:	• To provide more childcare spaces in our local community. • To meet the demands and requirements of our existing and new customers who require additional childcare spaces. • To generate more Early Years jobs and Apprenticeships. • To generate more income for our small private business.

Business background and description

Lynton Childcare is a well-established private day nursery, opened in July 2000 and is registered for 18 places. The overall ethos of Lynton is that we pride ourselves in being 'one big happy family' and we all feel privileged to know each and every child on a personal level. The children's well-being is paramount - we provide and maintain a safe, healthy environment for all our children. We value our children as individuals and recognise all of their achievements during their journey at Lynton, providing the foundations in preparation for school life. Lynton possess many facilities, including a fantastic large secure outdoor space with an additional Adventure Play Area at the rear of the garden. We also provide an afterschool club service from our local infant school and school holiday care. This is an ideal setting for young children aged 6 months to 11 years to play and learn in a safe, friendly and homely environment.

Project description – To extend Lynton Childcare, offering more childcare spaces to the local community and current families. To complete building alterations to extend the main pre-school room. Works to be carried out by qualified and trusted tradesmen – using the same contractors who have completed all alterations for the past 24 years to Lynton Childcare Ltd.

The proposed extension will be built off the existing preschool room and has been carefully designed to ensure it does not interfere with the current outdoor space. The development will retain a substantial patio area and will not impact the expansive green lawn or the mature trees and hedges, thereby preserving the quality and functionality of the outdoor environment. The design of the proposed extension will be in keeping with the existing building, using matching brickwork and complementary materials to ensure a cohesive and sympathetic appearance.

Ideas and concepts – Extension to be built off current pre-school room (see supporting planning documents)

This will generate more childcare spaces within the local community and increase the overall new square meterage in the pre-school room, potentially offering up to an additional 8-10 childcare spaces – depending on the child's age, as in accordance with the indoor space requirement per child. As part of the expansion programme and Government Funding, Early Years providers are being encouraged to increase capacity to enable more parents to work.

Timescale and logistics – To begin preparation works as soon as possible, following our settings risk assessments. Internal fit out works during our Christmas closure 2025 and during weekends. We would not need to close for works to be completed. With a view to open additional childcare spaces Spring 2026.

Retain Staff / job opportunities - We have a small team of highly qualified and caring staff. Lynton was set up by the owner and manager, who have been a part of Lynton for 25years. Senior staff have been with Lynton for 12years and other staff members 8years through to 2years.

Lynton Childcare offers a family environment with a firm, but fair, management approach ensuring that our staff stay with us and are valued and appreciated. We offer apprenticeship pathways and have trained many individuals who have either been fortunate to be offered a permanent position with Lynton Childcare or have moved onto higher teaching positions. The proposed increase would generate additional jobs in the Early Years sector locally.

Waiting lists / Customer loyalty is high - Families recommend us and come back to us. We are now caring for the children of many adults who used to attend Lynton as children themselves. We do not advertise childcare spaces as we are always in high demand and operate using waiting lists. We are currently at full capacity until September 2025, when our next cohort of children transition to school. We already have most of our spaces filled for a September 2025 start date – enrolment complete and deposits paid for these new starters. Any spaces left can be offered to existing families on our waiting list hoping to increase their current childcare sessions.

Problems or challenges - We recovered from the covid-19 crises and our bank statements to date are evidence of our current business success. During the coronavirus lockdown we actively made alterations to the setting in order to offer our services safely and continue operating. Customer loyalty and our confirmed management strategies all contributed to the sustainability of the business.

If we are faced with future challenges we will advertise childcare spaces, continue to offer flexible childcare sessions and offer discount incentives for full time spaces.