

Buds to Blossoms

Creating a truly inclusive environment where every child has the freedom to flourish

Background

Buds to Blossoms has been open since 2017 and is registered for up to 26 children per session. The setting has developed a practice that is firmly child-led, placing children's individuality and voice at the heart of everything they do.

What are they doing differently?

Buds to Blossoms views the environment as an active part of learning; a space that inspires and challenges in equal measure. What distinguishes them from others is the depth and consistency of their commitment to child-led, barrier-free practice.

This includes:

- Simplifying the physical environment by removing visual clutter to create calm, open-flowing spaces. This supports those with additional learning needs (ALN) who may become overwhelmed in overstimulating environments.
- Designing spaces with open-ended materials placed at children's height, promoting independence.
- Providing genuinely continuous outdoor access. The door remains open at all times (unless unsafe to do so), treating indoor and outdoor spaces as one unified environment. Children move freely between both, with learning taking place seamlessly across either space.
- Trusting children to decide how they use their environment, encouraging appropriate risk-taking and problem-solving. Staff are highly observant and reflective, continuously adapting the environment in response to what they see.

This is not a setting that simply makes provision for children with ALN alongside a standard offer. It has redesigned its entire environment and practice around the principle that every child, whatever their needs, should be able to explore without barriers.

Impact ...

- Greater independence and confidence as children navigate their own learning journey
- Improved engagement and concentration, with sustained focus and increased collaboration
- Better emotional regulation for children with ALN, with noticeable reductions in anxiety-related behaviours
- Increased participation from children with ALN in play and meaningful engagement with others, including more frequent self-initiated play and expression of preferences

Inclusion means seeing the beauty in every child and shaping the world so they can all blossom freely, each in their own unique way.