

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray

Full Day and Flexible Care for 0-5 Years

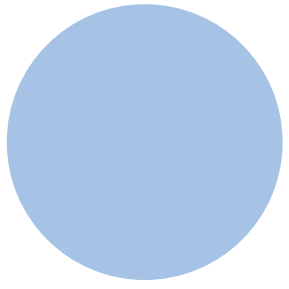
Where play is learning,
and learning is fun!



Working in partnership with
Bexley Early Years Advisory Team

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray
Incorporated within North Cray Neighbourhood Centre
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Welcome To Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray!

Choosing a nursery is a big decision, affecting you and your child. At Mapalim, we understand what's important to families.

Situated within North Cray Neighbourhood Centre, our Early Years Centre provides the care and education for your child and the support you need to simply enjoy those first few years.

Whether you are thinking about returning to work, or getting your child ready for full-time education, we have the right people and the right environment to give your child the best start in life.

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray is a place where children:

- Are valued as individuals
- Express their feelings and emotions, freely
- Feel empowered to make choices, take decisions and solve problems
- Enjoy exciting, challenging, and well-planned activities
- Receive the support, the structure and the learning foundation to prepare them for full-time education

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray is a place where parents and carers:

- Feel welcome
- Can access helpful advice and support from qualified and experienced childcare practitioners
- Receive up-to-date information on the progress of their child
- Are listened to and consulted with as the experts on their child

Easy Start

- No registration fee
- Settling-in periods to suit you
- No cancellation charge

Options to Suit You

Care at our Centre is integrated with the best early education, with a comprehensive Curriculum assured by our qualified teacher. We can offer you two types of childcare, depending upon the age of your child:

Day care for 0-5 years

Full and half day care during the morning and afternoon

Sessional Care for 2 years+

Sessions of 2.5 hours, throughout the day.

The childcare you choose will depend upon the level of support you are looking for.

Receive a 10% discount for your eldest child when you are booking for a minimum of four days, for two or more children!

At Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray, we want to provide the level of childcare you want to access. Contact us to discuss the needs and preferences of you and your child at the Centre, on the telephone, or in the comfort of your own home. (See page 19.)



About Us

Mapalim is more than just an Early Years Centre.

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray is the newest addition to the Mapalim family!

We also provide lots of creative and exciting activities for children of all ages and abilities right across the Southeast. From after school clubs, to holiday playschemes, and childcare, play and arts intervention projects – we work with more than 12,000 children and their families, every year!

Our aim is to make sure that as many children as possible have the best start in life. This means that we do all we can to safeguard the well-being of every child in our care.

Our work links into the Government's Every Child Matters Outcomes:

- **Be Healthy**
- **Stay Safe**
- **Enjoy and Achieve**
- **Make a Positive Contribution**
- **Achieve Economic Well-being**

We know that the best way to meet these outcomes is to make sure that children have access to high quality care and education from the very beginning.

We work closely with Bexley Early Years Advisory Team to make sure you receive the best support from North Cray Neighbourhood Centre.

We want our community to be part of your community!



“I believe that honesty, integrity, communication and working together are key!”

Our Early Years Centre Manager, Jade Swain

I first began working with children as a teacher, in 1999. Three years later, I moved from London to South East Asia to teach drama and speech, continuing to work with children. It was during this time that I began to practice my belief that children have an enormous capacity to learn, grow and achieve in an environment that is rich in creativity and innovation.

In 2002, I gave birth to my daughter, Isla. From that moment on, my interest in early years education deepened and I became more and more curious about the way young children learn, and the types of environments that best nurture and support this amazing process.

I moved back to London with my family in 2005, where I began to work for Mapalim in a managerial role. Using my experiences of working with children in very different formal and informal learning environments, I developed learning programmes for people who work with children in early years and playwork roles. I travelled across much of London and the Southeast, training and assessing childcare practitioners in a range of different settings.

Over the past two years, I have watched my daughter grow and enter the realms of toddlerdom! My passion for and interest in children’s earliest years has continued to grow, as has the need to find an innovative and high-quality centre for early childhood care and education for Isla.

It is my desire and commitment to create such a place at Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray.

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray is a place where...

- **All young children and their families are welcome!**
- **Staff are friendly, caring, knowledgeable and supportive!**
- **The environment is adaptable and responsive to the needs of every child and their family!**

I believe that honesty, integrity, communication and working together are key!



Contacting Jade

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Home From Home

We know it's really important for children to be part of a family, forming relationships with adults and children of different ages, and experiencing valuable social and emotional interactions.

So, we've decided **not** to use Vertical Grouping, where children of the same age are accommodated together in one room, and constantly 'moving up'.

In Vertical Grouping, children of different ages are separated away from each other, with each age group confined one area or room. No child is allowed to progress to another area or room until they reach a certain age, and children's development is measured against their age rather than their accomplishments.

We feel that Vertical Grouping overlooks the fact that each child is an individual, with individual abilities and strengths, likes and dislikes. In this scenario, the chances we have to recognise and celebrate children's accomplishments and individuality are limited. Sometimes, a child's stage of development is disregarded or unobserved when the emphasis is on grouping by age. Children also do not have opportunities to interact with, observe, and learn from children of different ages.

In Vertical Grouping the range of resources and materials on offer to each age group is usually narrower than in other situations, because the activities and opportunities for learning and creativity are aimed at children of the same age group. Staff work with one group and do not interact with children from other groups.

We believe that this model restricts children – their activities, their interactions – taking away crucial chances for observational learning, and putting limits on their growth and development. Staff knowledge and experience can be narrow and limited to one age group, which excludes a range of developmental stages.

Instead, our Centre resembles more closely a family situation, with Family Grouping, where children of different ages and developmental stages are grouped together.

Family Grouping is a more natural, holistic approach to care and education. Younger children can observe what they will be able to do when they are older as well as what they used to do as babies. Older children can begin to develop an understanding of the needs of babies and younger children, and learn to play safely around younger children.

There are lots of opportunities for praise and recognition from other children, as well as adults!

As part of a family group, your child will have the opportunity to observe potential role models, in playing alongside children of other ages and developmental stages, and finding ways to resolve conflict.

For children who want time out to relax, play quietly or sleep, our monitored breakout area is a place where children can rest safely without disturbance.

Using this model, we nurture peer relationships between children of all ages, encouraging them to care for each other, and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, as well as themselves.

In our Centre, knowledge and understanding of each child is important. Because we work this way, our staff have a much wider and more detailed knowledge of children at different ages and developmental stages.

We practice Family Grouping because we want to create a place where all children can experience family life and its benefits for self-esteem, learning and development.

Lastly, we love Family Grouping, because it's really in-line with what we believe – that a child's movement, activity and interests should never be restricted! Your child will have unlimited opportunities to interact with and learn from other children in our free-flowing environment, as well as our knowledgeable staff!

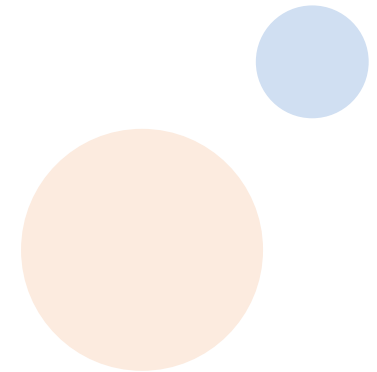
More About Us...

Our values, our people, our environment and our curriculum are focused on creativity and innovation.

Championing the Foundation Stage, our qualified teacher ensures that all the children who use our Centre experience the highest level of care and education.

We will support your child as they learn to:

- Gain independence
- Develop social and communication skills
- Realise creativity
- Adapt to a daily routine



Our Values

We are committed to delivering exceptional standards of early years care and education, in ways that meet the needs of you and your child.

- Identity and diversity is valued and embraced
- Independence is nurtured through safe and supportive relationships
- Children can express their feelings freely – and be listened to
- Achievement is encouraged and recognised
- Learning is fun, challenging and creative
- Staff are happy, inspiring, open-minded and love what they do
- Children are empowered and their rights are promoted
- The environment is welcoming, safe and stimulating
- Families and staff work together
- Services are accessible and flexible for all the community

Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray is a welcoming, enjoyable space that makes everyone smile!



Our People

As an employer, we look for exactly what you look for as a parent or carer: care and dedication to your child.

Our Early Years Centre Manager is an experienced and qualified childcare practitioner and manager, always on hand to make sure you and your child get the most out of our Centre.

Our Early Years Centre Deputy Manager is a qualified teacher, responsible for designing our programme of activities to ensure your child's learning and development is supported and promoted.

Our Senior Early Years and Play Specialist makes sure that your child's time with us is filled with the choice of lots of exciting, challenging and stimulating activities.

Our Early Years and Play Practitioners are highly experienced and qualified individuals who provide unrivalled, individual care and attention for your child.

Our Cook and Cleaner ensures that our menu is always healthy, our food is always fresh, and our Centre is a clean, safe place for your child.

We make sure that every member of our staff is CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked and trained to deliver the Foundation Stage so that your child is in the best possible hands.

All our staff receive training on Paediatric First Aid, Basic Food Hygiene, and Centre policies and procedures as part of our induction programme, which ensures that our team know and understand their role and responsibility in maintaining our values and our standards. This means that your child will receive consistently high quality care and education at our Centre.

We have an advanced NVQ and specialist Mapalim training programme, which all of our staff are required to undertake. And, to keep their skills and knowledge fresh and up-to-date, every member of staff continues to learn and develop as part of their continued professional development programme, to meet the needs of your child as best they can.



Our Environment

In your child's first years they will experience hundreds of new things – from new sights and sounds, to the way things taste, touch and smell! Our Centre is a colourful, multi-sensory-fantastic environment, where everyday is a learning adventure!

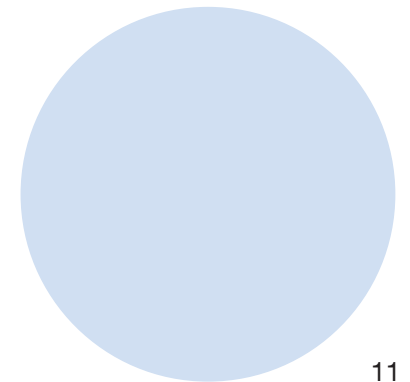
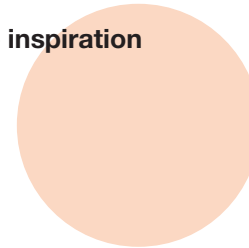
We love creativity, so our free-flowing Centre is creative inside and out!

Our Centre is a place for children to explore, enjoy, and feel at home. Seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling – and sharing experiences!

Whether your child is enjoying the inside or outside areas, they will always be safe and stimulated!

Our topic-based colourful interactive displays are a place for children to add to and develop with their own work and ideas.

In our free-flowing Centre, your child will have the space and the inspiration to be imaginative, resourceful and inventive!



Play today

Go to any toyshop and you will see row upon row of plastic toys and play equipment, manufactured by high-tech machinery. We recognise the need for children to play with natural materials, in an environment that celebrates nature!

With the opportunity for outdoor play becoming increasingly slim, we make the most of our outdoor spaces as well as our indoor spaces at Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray. Your child will have lots of opportunities to engage with and explore the world around them, experiencing as much as possible in the safety of our Centre and the care of our staff.

We love the elements!

And finding out how air is different from water, and earth is different from wood, why they're all important and mixing them all together! We recognise that outdoor play is an essential part of every child's life, and exposure to the elements is vital to development. In this way children can explore the world around them and recognise the importance of earth, air, fire and water to life.

We love nature!

And learning more about the natural world through tactile, sensory experiences with leaves, grass, fir cones, seeds, flowers, stones, shells, pebbles, sand, and much more! If play is how children explore the world around them, then it is crucial that nature is a place for adventure, taking risks and sharing discovery. This is essential for both the development of the child and the future conservation of our world.

We love the environment!

And recycling materials like egg boxes, scraps of fabric or paper, carpet, wool, cardboard, plastic, cotton-reels to use in games, and creative craft projects! In order to conserve the environment for future generations, we must nurture a respect for and appreciation of the world around us from children's first years.

We love reading, storytelling, and drama!

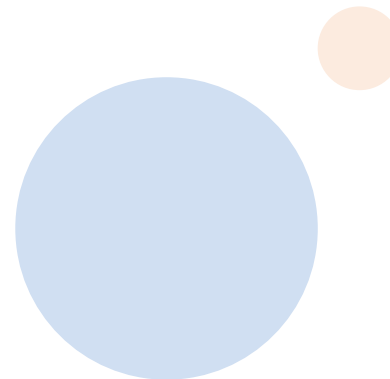
And exploring different cultures, countries and lifestyles, and sharing stories through dressing up and face painting! Participating in imaginative play enables children to experience real emotions, decision-making, and problem-solving skills in "real" situations, places and worlds. Imagined experiences expand the realms of possibility and enable children to step outside their everyday existence. The child who becomes an astronaut during a drama workshop is able to realise her dreams and aspirations.

We love music, singing and dancing!

And playing maracas, triangles, tambourines, recorders, whistles, cymbals, African skin drums, Chinese bars, Indian bells, and making our own percussion using beans, rice, lentils, wooden spoons, bottles, teaspoons, combs, paper, plastic, or cardboard tubing, hub caps, and string! Music enables children to develop rhythm, rhyme and co-ordination, as well as fine and gross motor skills. Finding out about music, song and dance exposes children to different cultures and emotions, and encourages better understanding of the world around them.

We love art!

And painting, drawing, colouring, and modelling with clay, Play-doh, salt dough, Plasticine, wax, pastry and Fimo, to make anything we want! Children express themselves using a range of mediums. Making art and being creative is a fantastic way for children to articulate their feelings and views. We recognise the benefits that exposure to the arts can bring to children in their early years. In our gallery space, children will have the opportunity to see their own art work exhibited as well as work with artists in residence to create exhibitions and installations.



Our Curriculum

Our Curriculum is about learning, everyday - from our Early Years Centre to your home - we share your expectations for the growth and development of your child.

Every child comes into our Centre at a different stage in their development. Our Curriculum provides different starting points to enable each child to develop their learning and their interests, building on what they already know and do.

Our starting point is... every child has the ability to grow, learn and develop!

Our caring and knowledgeable staff build upon this ability, nurturing a lifelong love for learning.

Your child's day will be carefully planned, in response to their individual interests, abilities and needs. From the moment your child enters our Centre, they will be able to choose from a range of fun and challenging planned and spontaneous activities, inside and outside.

We make sure that each child is both supported and challenged with a Curriculum that offers flexibility as well as the structure of routine. Through close observation, we can identify the specific needs of every child, so that these can be addressed before they start school.

At Mapalim, we know that you, as parents and primary carers, are your child's first and most enduring teacher – and we want to learn from you!



Getting ready for school

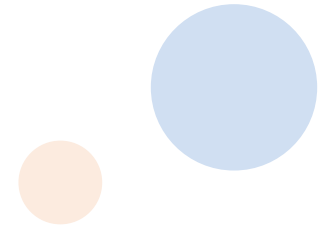
As your child approaches school age, our more structured and individually planned sessions will help to prepare them for full-time education by:

- **Fostering an enjoyment of learning**
- **Introducing routines and structures**
- **Building the foundations for future learning**
- **Providing access to a wide range of knowledgeable staff, resources and activities**
- **Assimilating a profile of accomplishments**

By the time your child leaves our care to progress to full-time education, we will have supported them to develop the confidence and communication skills to perform and achieve in a school classroom.

We plan the Centre space, the daily programme and routine, to support the growth, learning and development of your child, and to promote the Government's *Birth to three matters* Framework for 0-3 years, and *Foundation Stage* curriculum guidance for 3-5 years.





Birth to three matters

Birth to three matters is a framework that focuses on the child, away from subjects and headings. The framework is about valuing and celebrating young children of every ability, and recognising that the environment in which they are cared for and educated is key to nurturing their learning and development.

aspects	components			
a strong child	me, myself and I	being acknowledged and affirmed	developing self-assurance	a sense of belonging
a skillful communicator	being together	finding a voice	listening and responding	making meaning
a competent learner	making connections	being imaginative	being creative	representing
a healthy child	emotional well-being	growing and developing	keeping safe	healthy choices

Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage is divided into six areas of learning, forming the basis of our Curriculum:

- **Personal, social and emotional development**
- **Communication, language and literacy**
- **Mathematical development**
- **Knowledge and understanding of the world**
- **Physical development**
- **Creative development**

Within this Curriculum, the early learning goals form a series of expectations for each child, whatever their stage of learning. We will work with you to help your child meet and even exceed these expectations. Through a system of stepping stones, we monitor the skills, knowledge, understanding and attitudes of each child.

Early Years News

From September 2008, every nursery in England will be affected by new legislation that brings early childhood care and education closer together.

This means that from next year, all young children will benefit from a new Early Years Foundation Stage framework based upon:

- **Birth to three matters**
- **Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage**
- **National Standards for under 8s day care and Ofsted**

With these changes, the Government aims to raise the quality of care and education available to young children, across the country. This means that you should expect high quality from your local early years centre as standard.

One Step Ahead

At Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray, we're already Ofsted approved, and delivering the new Early Years Foundation Stage, one year ahead of other centres!

In our care, your child can be one step ahead in their learning and development, with our advanced Curriculum and knowledgeable staff team, which includes a qualified and experienced teacher.

Our Policies

Our number one policy is healthy, happy children!

Our policies and procedures are implemented by our staff, who understand why they're important.

And by adhering to our tried and tested policies and procedures, we make sure our practices are clear, and that children and their families experience consistently high quality care from us.

You can obtain a full set of our Centre policies and procedures on request, or download these from our website www.mapalim.com

Here are some key sections:

Staff Ratios

We adhere to the following staff ratios to keep children safe:

- 1 member of staff for every 3 children aged 0-2 years
- 1 member of staff for every 4 children aged 2-3 years
- 1 member of staff for every 8 children aged 3-5 years

Healthy Eating

Mealtimes at Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray are social, happy times where healthy eating can be developed and enjoyed!

Our food is prepared and cooked on site using only the freshest of ingredients, which are diverse and sourced locally.



All meals are carefully planned to meet the individual needs and requirements of each child. If your child has any specific dietary requirements, please inform the Early Years Centre Manager.

Please note, we do not specify a 'snack time', but throughout the Centre we have a series of snack zones, which offer fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and other goodies, open at all times of the day.

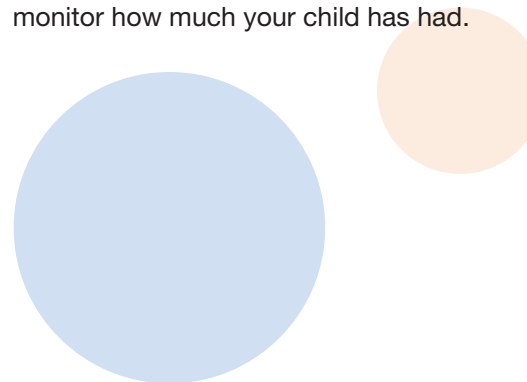
We support children as they begin to serve themselves at mealtimes, developing important communication and social skills.

Milk and Nappies

We ask that you provide adequate milk and nappies for your child. However, we can provide these for you if you prefer. You will have the opportunity to discuss this with the Early Years Centre Manager.

What if my baby is on breast milk?

We welcome you to bring expressed milk to our Centre in bottles labelled with your child's name. This will be given to your child at the times you state and we will monitor how much your child has had.



Partners In Care

Your child's first moments in the Centre can affect their whole day – and yours!

Finding yourself somewhere new and unexplored can seem frightening and overwhelming to a young child. At Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray, we will do everything we can to make sure that your child feels safe and welcome, from the moment they arrive, to the next time they attend.

Welcoming children into our Centre is just one way we create a home from home environment. We also conduct home visits, where we will happily come to your home to meet with you and your child. This provides us with the opportunity to observe your child in the home environment, and discuss the needs and preferences of you and your child.

We believe that young children benefit from having a key person in the Centre as well as at home, so we make sure that every child is assigned a key worker, to provide them with individual care and support.

We know that you know your child better than anyone else. Our staff will spend as much time as is needed to work with you and your child to establish those feelings of trust and routine, crucial to their comfort, happiness and well being.

Family Room

Our Family Room is a space for you and your child to enjoy, located at the front of the Centre.

We want you to feel free to use this room to spend time with your child, and to make sure that you both feel comfortable and happy at the Centre.

Here, you can also interact with our Early Years Centre Team and find out more about the services on offer at North Cray Neighbourhood Centre.

We want you and your child to use our Centre in the way that suits you – and enjoy coming back, again and again!



Placing Your Child In Our Care

Receive a 10% discount when you have two or more children attending for a minimum of four days!

We know that you need a range of childcare options to suit you and your child. So, we have developed two areas within our Centre for you to choose from:

- Flexible Care for 2-5 year olds
- Day Care for 0-5 year olds

Whether you need childcare for a few hours or whole day, we can ensure that your child is safe and cared for.

Flexible care for 2-5 years olds

Choose from two 2.5-hour care sessions, throughout the school term:

sessional rate	am session	pm session *
£10	9:30am - 12:00pm	12:45pm - 3:15pm

*We will be running this session in the future.

Free Sessions

If your child is aged 3 or 4 years, you are entitled to **FIVE FREE SESSIONS** per week! That's 12.5 hours of free care, every week of the school term.

Day care for 0-5 years olds

Choose from care for the morning, afternoon or the whole day, on weekdays throughout the school term.

	morning care 8am - 1pm		afternoon care 1pm - 6pm		full day care 8am - 6pm	
	daily rate	weekly rate	daily rate	weekly rate	daily rate	weekly rate
under 2s	£25	£95	£25	£95	£42	£185
2 years	£22	£80	£22	£80	£35	£150
3 years+	£18	£72	£18	£72	£30	£140

We follow the Family Grouping model, which recognises that families are central to the well-being of every child, and that relationships with others – children and adults, are also really important.

Our staff make very caring and knowledgeable role models, but we think children can also learn a lot from one another. So, we group children in mixed age family groups so that they can learn to share and care for one another, together.

Under our supervision, older children can begin to understand the needs of babies, and model positive behaviour for children younger than them.

The Day Care Centre is a home from home environment where your child will join with others to form part of a family group, developing a better understanding of themselves, and other children and adults.

Mapalim After School Club North Cray

Throughout the course of the school day, your child's natural movement has been determined by their school timetable.

Our After School Club is a place for children of primary school age to decide how they spend their time at the end of the school day. We will care for your child whilst they enjoy stimulating leisure time, play activities and interactions with other children, faraway from their school environment.

Worried about the afternoon school run? Don't be. We will collect your child at 3:30pm from their school and escort them safely to Mapalim After School Club North Cray, where you can collect them at 6pm.

After School Session

3:30pm - 6:00pm
£12 (Concessions £8)

Mapalim Holiday Playscheme North Cray

Our fun and exciting Playscheme makes the most of every holiday for 3-11 year olds!

We're open every spring, summer, winter holiday, and half-term, so you can access the support you need to care for your child.

Children can choose from a range of free play and planned activities that are carefully designed to meet their individual needs and interests.

From mask and model making, to rounders and football, cookery and construction. There's always lots to do at Mapalim Holiday Playscheme North Cray!

Our trained and qualified playworkers will facilitate the enjoyment of your child, whilst keeping them safe at all times.



Core Day

10:15am - 3:30pm
£12 (Concessions £8)

Extended Sessions

am: 8:00am - 10:15am
pm: 3:30pm - 6:00pm
£5

Next Steps

If you would like to find out more about registering your child with Mapalim Early Years Centre North Cray, contact us to arrange a home visit with our Early Years Centre Manager, Jade Swain, or drop in for a chat.

Jade will come to your home to meet with you and your child, to find out about you both, and to tell you more about what you can expect from us. Jade will provide you with an Expression of Interest form, which she will complete with you there and then, or leave with you for you to consider.

Alternatively, you can download the Expression of Interest form from our website, and post the completed form to the address below.

Contact Details

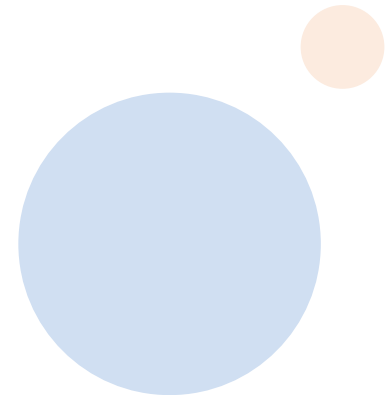
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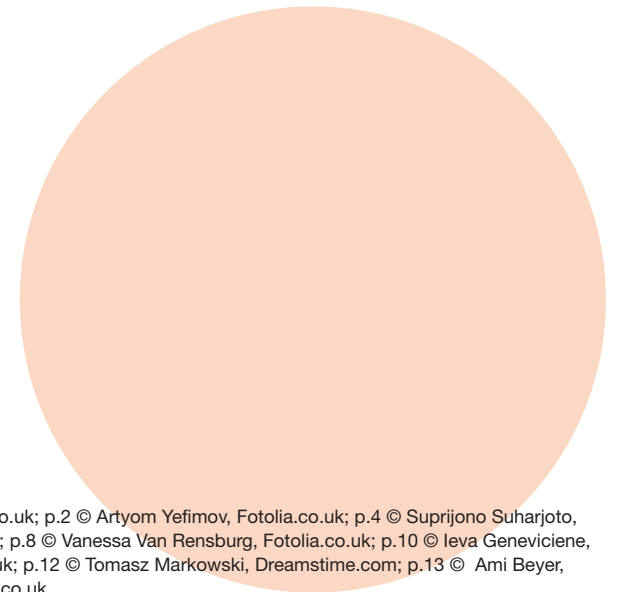
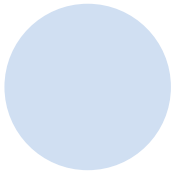
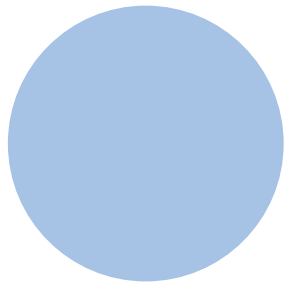
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Working in partnership with
Bexley Early Years Advisory Team

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