



Lizz and Stewart Gray live in Bracknell, with daughter Morgan, age four, plus Bailey, six and Taylor, five.

Morgan's progress at Kennel Lane has been phenomenal, says Lizz

Early Years

Lizz and Stewart chose Kennel Lane for daughter Morgan following a recommendation from the Early Years Team.

"Morgan originally went to a little Montessori preschool, but she wasn't coming on quite as well as we hoped," recalls Lizz. "We heard a lot about Kennel Lane and when we went to take a look we were very impressed."

First impressions

Lizz, who is a teaching assistant at a mainstream school, had visited Kennel Lane in a professional capacity as well as a parent.

“My first impression, both as a parent and a professional, was that I absolutely loved the school,” she says. “There is such a lovely, calm atmosphere and the staff deal with everything so easily and professionally.”

Fabulous facilities

Kennel Lane has many excellent facilities for children to enjoy.

“The facilities are fantastic,” says Lizz. “There is a wonderful sensory room that Morgan loves, complete with bubbles etc. They also have a soft playroom where they can take her if she ever gets worked up. An outdoor sensory garden is currently being completed, which will be wonderful. There is also a forest school classroom, where the children learn about planting and growing things.”

Indoor pool

Kennel Lane’s indoor heated swimming pool was a big plus for young Morgan.

“Morgan absolutely adores the indoor pool,” says Lizz. “She swims there once a week and is doing so well that she has even achieved swimming awards!”

Great progress

Morgan, who has a diagnosis of severe global delay and a working diagnosis of autism, has made enormous progress.

“Morgan is a totally different child since being at Kennel Lane,” says Lizz. “If I speak to someone that hasn’t seen her for a while they don’t recognize her! When she started Morgan couldn’t speak a single word, clung to me constantly and wouldn’t do anything, but now she sings three or four different songs and knows all the words and can say about ten words, including Mummy, Daddy, Goodbye etc. I cannot praise the staff at the school enough.”

Getting involved

Lizz is Chair of the school’s Parent Teacher Association and says there are plenty of opportunities for parents to get involved.

“Parents are always encouraged to get involved at Kennel Lane if they want to,” she says. “We have a small PTA committee, but there are many ways to help at events such as discos and fairs.”

Communication skills

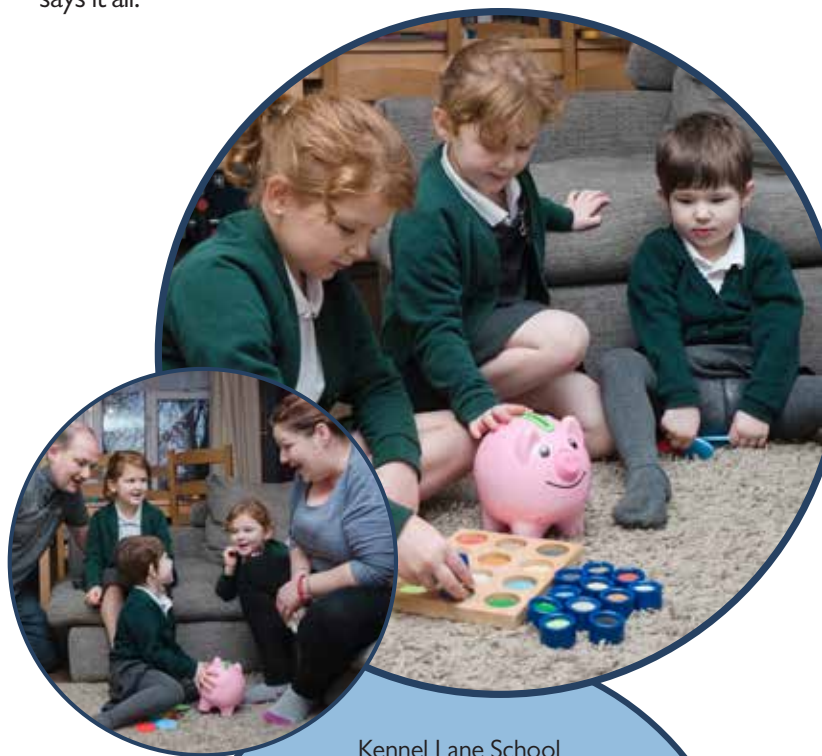
The link between home and school is strong.

“Communication is excellent,” says Lizz. “We live very close to the school, so it is easy for us to pick up Morgan and drop her off again and we can chat with her key worker every day. However, Morgan also has a school diary, which is written in every day and so we always know what she has been doing and if there have been any issues or problems.”

Happy and settled

Children can stay on at Kennel Lane until they are 19 years old, which limits the stress of moving to a new facility.

“There is a lovely atmosphere at the school and because they take children right up to the age of 19 there is no chopping or changing,” says Lizz. “Obviously you would love your child to eventually go on to mainstream school, but if that doesn’t happen I am more than happy for Morgan to stay on at Kennel Lane as she loves it and is very settled. When I say ‘time for school’ to Morgan, she signs the word ‘friend’ and I think that says it all!”



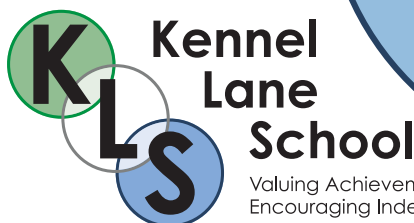
Kennel Lane School
Kennel Lane
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG42 2EX

Email: secretary@kennellaneschool.com

Website: www.kennellaneschool.com

Tel: 01344 483872

Fax: 01344 304224



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