

First for Childcare Complete Happy Jays Acquisition



The First for Childcare Group has completed the acquisition of Happy Jays Limited, a six-strong group of nurseries based in Yorkshire.

The multi-million-pound deal, brokered by sector experts Redwoods Dowling Kerr, illustrates the buoyancy of the childcare market in the north of England and was financed by Barclays.

The Happy Jays Group is registered to provide nursery care services for up to 440 children aged from 3 months to 5 years as well as after-school clubs across locations in Boroughbridge, York Scarborough, Batley, Eastfield and Harrogate. Provision is consistently rated by Ofsted as Outstanding or Good across all settings.

The vendors, Tony and Jacqui Gernon commented "We chose Redwoods Dowling Kerr to sell our Group using their director-led corporate sales process as we believed that they were best placed to deliver the outcome we required from our sale. Paul Miller was personally involved at all stages of the process and was in regular contact throughout. We are delighted that RDK found the right strategic buyer who we believe will continue to provide first class nursery education across North and West Yorkshire."

Paul Miller, CEO of Redwoods Dowling Kerr added "We are delighted to have concluded the sale of Happy Jays to Sue and her First for Childcare Group. I'm sure it will provide a good strategic fit and

enable Sue to increase her geographic presence. The deal further underlines the health of the nursery sector and its attractiveness to lenders such as Barclays."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Redwoods Dowling Kerr

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