

Directorate of Children's Services

Early Years and Childcare Team
Reading Borough Council
Civic Centre
Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU

Planning Policy Team
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

☎ 0118 937 3003

E-mail: early.years@reading.gov.uk

Date: 02 March 2026

Your contact is: Rebecca.gibson@reading.gov.uk

Dear Planning Policy Team,

I am writing to provide the Early Years and Childcare Team's position regarding a request submitted to Planning by **Banana Moon**, seeking approval to increase their childcare places from 30 to 60 in response to a rise in parental demand.

Banana Moon is an established Ofsted registered nursery provision situated in Thames Ward. They are registered with Ofsted to provide 74 places based on their existing physical space - this is currently capped at 30 due to planning conditions. The nursery reports a current waiting list of approximately 20 children under 5 years. This includes children newly eligible for funding, siblings of children already attending, and children displaced from recent nursery closures in North and Central Reading.

Based on sufficiency analysis for Spring 2026 and the provider confirming they can accommodate more children, our team is supportive of the request to increase registered numbers to 60 subject to all necessary approvals. Additionally, we welcome Banana Moon's commitment to offering places for targeted families eligible for Funded Early Learning for 2-year-olds in line with our local priorities.

Please let me know if any further information or clarification is required,

Kind regards

B. Gibson

Becky Gibson
Early Years & Childcare Team Manager
Education | Directorate of Children's Services