



Jackie and Keith Machin live in Leighton Buzzard with their four-year-old twins, Dylan and Ellie.

The Machin twins are both thriving in the homely atmosphere of Leedon Lower School

Settling in

Jackie and Keith are delighted with the good start their twins made at Leedon Lower School. Jackie says: "Our experience of the school so far has been brilliant. The twins started in Leedon's Little Learners, the nursery, at the age of three and moved up into the reception class last September. Dylan had problems settling in

but the staff were all very good with him. They would greet him in the morning and take him off me because he was very clingy to begin with. They suggested I rang up at about 10 am to see how he was getting on and would tell me he was sitting doing his phonics and was really happy."

Coping well

Eventually Jackie and Keith discovered Dylan had Type One Diabetes. Jackie says: "Now he is getting the right treatment for his condition he is like a different child, but the staff handled his issues very well at the time when we didn't know what was wrong with him. When Dylan was first diagnosed I didn't want him to miss school, but he has to have his blood sugars tested four times a day because his condition changes and he has to have injections, so I used to spend all day with him at school caring for him with the help of his teachers."

Help from staff

Now staff at Leedon have learnt to test Dylan's blood sugars and give him his injections, Jackie just goes in for the lunch time test and to give him his insulin. "Because I am on the school premises every day I now provide lunch cover in Little Learners. I help out with the children while the staff take it in turns to have their lunches and I really enjoy it," she says.



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Smooth transition

Both Dylan and Ellie settled in well in the reception class. "The school handled the transition skilfully by taking them from the nursery up to the main school to visit the reception class. Ellie loved it immediately and Dylan has also settled in well now. He is coming on in leaps and bounds with his writing and loves doing phonics. Ellie loves painting, doing her numbers and reading. She is more laid back about schoolwork than Dylan, but she is progressing well," Jackie says.

After school

The twins both love PE and playing outside with their friends. They also enjoy the extra activities organised by Leedon. Jackie says: "On World Book Day they invited the children back to school in the evening and read them a bedtime story. They gave them all a cup of hot chocolate and a biscuit and the kids thought it was brilliant."

Warm atmosphere

Leedon is a very friendly, welcoming school and the children are happy and confident. Jackie says: "When we walk to school the children all seem pleased to see their friends and to be going to school. The head teacher says hello to the parents and the children as we walk into school and knows all the children's names. The school office staff are always friendly and welcoming and the dinner ladies are brilliant too."

Family friendly

The school is in a lovely setting with a playing field, a garden and other outside spaces for the children to play in. Jackie says: "I attended the school and so did my brothers and sisters. Some of the teachers who taught them are still teaching at Leedon. They remember us as a family and even ask after my Mum. It's such a friendly, happy place."

Children say

Dylan says: "I like all my friends and playing with Lego at school."

Ellie says: "I like playing on the outside play area."



'Learning without limits'