My name is Debra (Owner and Centre manager at Samui Tiny Steps ) and I am a mother of 2 my daughter is 13 and my son is 11.

I Came to Samui 2002 with my husband to visit family and to travel Thailand we stayed a few months then returned the following year to do the same, we then returned to the uk where my son and daughter was born and returned back with them when they were age 2 and 4 to begin our samui life .

I have lived here 9 years now when I first arrived with my small children I realised there was a lack of facilities for young learners being involved in Nursery teaching in the uk I was very aware of the social interaction and learning through play every child deserves to have access to . So with this in mind I wanted to create an environment where children can be involved in imaginative play , arts and crafts , music and movement and lots of books and story times and have access to learning materials and lots of space to explore nature and enhance their motor skills.

Samui Tiny Steps

We opened October 2013 since then we have grown nice and steady enabling each of the children joining us to settle and have a unique one on one experience. Now we have many children from many nationalities.

Our nursery / Preschool sits on 2000 square metres of land so we are very lucky to have lots of outside shaded areas to run and play with slides and cubby houses , as well as light airy classrooms , dining room ,reception area, adult and separate childrens bathroom and outside covered soft play area .

We are a purpose built Nursery/ Preschool so we have had the unique advantage of ensuring all facilities are suitable for this age group. Every care and consideration has gone into the safety of the nursery so all parents can feel happy and confident to leave their children in our loving care.

I am particularly keen on guiding this age group as this can be a childs first experience in learning about the world around them and how to express themselves I consider pre school age a big transition to future learning within a school and I wish to be the smooth transition with tiny steps a child and their parents deserve.

I am also a Teaching English as a foreign language teacher (TEFL) and Jolly Phonics Trained we use Jolly phonics as a learning tool to help children with their reading and writing skills from the very basic Letter sounds to being able to write their own names and a few sentences before they leave us ready for school. Many schools on the island  use Jolly phonics and with this in mind I wanted to make the transition easy and give the children at Tiny steps a good head start .

Jolly Phonics is a fun way to learn letter sounds and is a great way to prepare your child for school. Many UK primary schools use Jolly Phonics to teach reading. It is a systematic, sequential, phonics program designed to teach children to read. Children learn 40+ sounds of the English language, rather than the alphabet. They are then taken through the stages of blending and segmenting words to develop reading and writing skills. This method is also a great tool for teaching English as a second language. For this age we focus on teaching the letter sounds using multi sensory methods such as songs, actions activities and games. we keep worksheets to a minimum at this age and encourage parents to practice with their child at home using the sound book.

I decided to Follow The British Early years Foundation stage curriculum, Our EYFS Teacher ( EYFS Qualified with many years teaching experience ) will Be teaching our Preschool Classes for children age 3-5 and I am the Nursery teacher for our youngest students to help and gently guide them through certain Milestones such as separation anxiety, social skills and various needs including toilet training. We maintain a 5;1 child adult ratio in our Nursery group and each preschool class of 15 to 20 children has a qualified Teacher with Teachers Assistant Overall we have a Team of 10 which makes Tiny steps the complete Package.

Im sure Every parent will agree starting school can be a very big step for toddlers and parents alike and so we designed a safe secure,friendly educational yet fun environment where children can not only learn through play they can also develop the skills to become confident and independent when they join their first school.

We have various options available for our Nursery class to aid in our ”settling in“ period I find that at the age of 2 years old and sometimes 3 children are not yet emotionally equipped to leave their parents for too long so we offer part time (Mornings sessions) this can be discussed with each individual family and their needs.

I have met truly amazing parents and friends on the island in my 9 years on Samui They have given me Inspiration and focus on what they know to be my passion in life "Tiny steps "

I look forward to meeting you all in the near future

Debra (Centre Manager)

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For those who are not yet familiar with the British EYFS curriculum here is a brief explanation of our curriculum I am always happy to explain in full at the arranged tour of our facilities and each and every parent will leave with a welcome/information pack available in English and Thai .

Activity – Led structured learning through play incorporating the seven developmental areas in line with Early Years Foundation Stage.

* Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
* Physical Development.
* Communication and Language.
* Literacy.
* Understanding of the world.
* Mathematics.
* Expressive Art and Design.

Please book a visit to discuss the options available and a Full Tour of our Facilities call Debra on 077426941 or visit our facebook page samuitinystepsnurseryandpreschool or website www.samuitinysteps.com