

The Early Bird Pre-School Newsletter

April 2009



Hope you all have a lovely Easter!

I hope the sun continues to shine.

**Important
DATE!**

Term Dates

Summer Term

Mon 20th Apr - Fri 17th July

Half Term

Mon 26th - Fri 29th May

Autumn dates will follow in the next newsletter.

Details regarding farm visit and parents evening will follow after the Easter break.

Early Bird Planning

Next term we shall be doing lots of activities around Knowledge and Understanding of the World. We have started it off already this term with our frogspawn and tadpoles that have appeared at the setting. We have ordered our caterpillars to arrive after Easter to continue our look at life-cycles. We will also plan a trip to the farm and a walk over to the church for St George's Day. See notice board after Easter for details.

As well as organizing trips out, the children really enjoy having visitors into the setting. If any parents, grandparents, friends would be willing to come into the setting to share with the children any professions or skills we would love to hear from you. We are particularly looking for people to come and play musical instruments to the children after the May Half term so if you know anybody who would be willing please let us know.

**Happy Birthday
to you!**

Samuel
28th April
Max
1st May

Sad Farewell

This week we say a sad farewell to Emma who has been with us at Early Birds for 3 years. I am sure you will all join with me and wish her well. Emma has been a dedicated and committed member of the team and will be missed by all.

Lime Tree Children's Centre

I have been out of the setting a lot this term working alongside the children's centre manager and head teacher of Westbury School meeting builders and architects but pleased to say that the building work started a couple of weeks ago.

We are still unclear when we shall be opening but hope to be able to offer places temporarily in Westbury School Nursery from September until they complete the build (due to be middle of September) but off course depends on good weather.

I shall continue not be present as often as I would like for the summer term and very much looking forward to working more closely with the children again in September.

As always please do ask if you would like further information about this.

**Welcome to new
team members!**

Sarah Dunk joined us earlier this term as our numbers took a sudden boost as a temporary practitioner.

Rosemary is the latest addition to our team. Rosemary is an experienced practitioner and child minder currently completing her foundation degree in Early Years.

Outside Space

After a delay from Herts County Council in getting the contract to the successful grant applicants I can now confirm this has just been received. We are working closely with Ground Works and as soon as we have confirmed planning permission from the authorities we should be ready to go. Watch this space . . .

Staff Members

Denisse Skewis - Lead Practitioner, Owner
Ebony Hope - Deputy Lead Practitioner (Safeguarding Children)
Tracie Newton - Senior Practitioner (Fire Safety, SenCo, Behaviour Management)
Rosemary Williams - Senior Practitioner (Health & Safety)
Syreta Scott - Practitioner (Assistant Senco)
Cheryl Careford - Practitioner
Vincenza Walls - Practitioner
Sarah Dunk - Temporary Practitioner
Lynda Evans - Helper

Fee Increase

I am pleased to announce that I have managed to keep the fee increase this year to 5p per hour.

Paying Fees

I have introduced the option of paying fees online. Please see your invoice for further details or contact me on 07917 606828 or denisseskewis@hotmail.com

Early Bird Books

The stock of books we have at Early Bird's is looking very low. Can we ask that you all take a look at home and see if you have any. They should all have our name on the cover or just inside. Sometimes the children ask for a particular story at story time or we look for a book that would extend a child's interest in a subject and can't find them. Even if books have been lost or damaged please let us know.



SNACK TIME

Snack time is going really well with the children enjoying the healthy snacks we have been offering. They have had pitta bread with dips, fruit and vegetables, yoghurt and toast and jam. Some children enjoyed tasting a lemon!

If you have any ideas of a healthy snack that you think the children would enjoy then please let us know.

EARLY BIRD BAGS

We have in stock book bags and sports bags that can be used for change of clothes (don't take up much space on the peg and a space to put your name on).

These will be charged out for a £10 refundable deposit. You are welcome to keep them at the end of your stay or if they are in a reusable condition we will refund your money.

EYFS - Learning and Development Knowledge and Understanding of the World and what it means for children

Babies and Children find out about the world through exploration and from a variety of sources including families, friends, media and through what they see and hear. Babies and children need regular opportunities to learn about different ways of life, to be given accurate information and develop positive and caring attitudes towards others.

Children should be helped to learn to respect and value all people and learn to avoid misapprehensions and negative attitudes towards others.

Children should be involved in the practical application of their knowledge and skills which will promote their self-esteem through allowing them to make decisions about what to investigate and how to do it.

Where is the year going to?

Another term has passed by really quickly. Thank you to the parents who helped on the library trip it was a huge success and they invited us back to attend again. We have some lovely photographs of the trip.

The children have also enjoyed the various role play areas this term including a shop, baby clinic and train station and now that the ground is not too wet we have been able to access outside every day. Please remember as the warm weather approaches to put suncream on the children in the morning and provide hats for them to wear. Please also ensure that coats, raincoats are available daily.

Red Nose Day was eventful and we managed to raise £23 for the worthy cause. Thank you for your contributions. Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you all back in a couple of weeks.