

The Early Bird Pre-School Newsletter

May 2010



Remember Sun Safety - hat, sun cream and sensible clothing/shoes

Important DATE!

Term Dates

Summer Term

Mon 19th Apr - Fri 16th July

Half Term

Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June

Thursday 10th June -
Children's Photographer

Tuesday 15th June - Visit to
Standalone Farm

Monday 12th July - Teddy
Bears Picnic at Norton
Common

Friday 16th July - End of
term performance "We're
Going on a Bear Hunt"

The Early Bird Pre-School latest news

Congratulations to Rosemary, who has been promoted to co-leader with Denisse.

Congratulations to Amy and Vanessa who have successfully achieved their NVQ level 3 qualification in child care.

We have a couple of outings coming up (see dates opposite) so please come and help out if you can to ensure that they go ahead.

Thank you to the Parkhouse family who have been helping us with our outside space. We really appreciate your time and expertise.

Please return your form with hours for the autumn term asap.

Holiday Club!

The Early Bird Pre-School is running a holiday club from the Westbury site. This will be available from 9.30 - 12.30 (Monday August - Friday August) Available for children aged 3 - 7 (limited number of 2 year old spaces now available). The price will be £10 per session. Please email westbury@earlybirdpreschool.co.uk

Sickness/Diarrhoea - please do not send your child into pre-school for **48 hours** after symptoms stop.

This is a strict guideline set by the Health Protection Agency.

End of Term Performance

We shall be "Going on a Bear Hunt" for our end of term performance on the last day of term. All parents and siblings are invited to come too. To help us with the performance we could do with a few parents to support the staff. Separate letter will be sent out next term.

Change in Staffing

We have been reviewing the organisation and roles and responsibilities of staff to try and improve our operation and ensure our long term viability and sustainability of a quality pre-school. We are pleased to announce that Rosemary will become the co-leader of the pre-school.

Tracie will continue to support Rosemary as deputy and Denisse will still be involved in the operations on a part time basis as well as the business and management side of both settings.

We shall be looking to promote a senior practitioner in the summer term to take effect from September 2010.

Fees and Collection of Children

The fees for the pre-school sessions will be increasing by 25p per hour. Increase in fees has been kept minimal over the last couple of years and this year is in line with an increase in costs.

Please can parents be reminded to collect their children on time. A copy of our collection of children policy states that we can charge £5 for late collection of up to 15 minutes and £10 per 15 minutes after this.

Staff Members

Denisse Skewis - Lead Practitioner, Owner
Rosemary Williams - Lead Practitioner (Safeguarding Children)
Tracie Newton - Deputy Lead Practitioner (SenCo and Health and Safety)
Vincenza Walls - Practitioner
Hilary Wright - Practitioner
Charnjit Chaggar-Chahal - Practitioner
Vanessa Wong - Practitioner
Amy Kibler - Practitioner
Lynda Evans - Helper

New Parent/Child Induction Pack Available Now!

We have been busy working on a new induction pack for new starters. This is now available, please ask if you would like to see a copy.

Managing Medical conditions at pre-school

To help us managing illnesses/medical conditions at pre-school we need to know if your child is taking regular medication e.g. asthma. If so, please see Rosemary or Tracie for a form that needs to be completed for our records.

Pre-existing injuries

A reminder to parents that if your child enters the setting with a pre-existing injury there is another form that we need to fill in. Please see a member of staff and ensure that this is filled in before your child is left with us.

OPEN DAY

We now have a Facebook page. Search Early Bird Pre-School (Norton). Please become a fan! We shall be regularly putting up events and snippets of information for those of you who may not come into the setting and get to see the notice board.

Next Term's Activities

Based on views shared by the children, and parents during our last key person evening, we shall be taking a closer look at pet animals over this term. If you have a pet animal at home and you are able to bring in a photo, we would love to share this with the children to help us in our discussions about caring for living things around us. We are planning to have a puppy visit the setting within the next 5 weeks so please let us know if your child would find this a challenge and we can make suitable arrangements to provide support.

World cup - to celebrate the world teams playing in the football tournaments this year, we shall be making and eating foods from around the world for snack times, also taking a closer look at flags that represent the teams playing to introduce other cultures to the children. If you have something you would like to share regarding your family's cultural background with the children, feel free to share your ideas with us. We will also be continuing to look at farm animals alongside our planned visit to the farm and practising our Bear Hunt end of term performance.

Noticeboard

Just to let you know that we have ordered some new noticeboards that will be put up in the lobby. In the meantime the noticeboard remains to be next to the Clulow room around the other side of the hall. Please do ask if you need further information in the meantime.

After much interest from various children in the setting, we arranged for the local fire service to visit us. On the day, many of the children thought we were pretending when we told them that the fire fighters had arrived! The children went out in two groups and much fun and amazement was had by those who took part. The children took turns in sitting in the rear and front seats with the fire fighters they tried on helmets and squirted the fire hose. Many attempted to lift the heavy equipment used for cutting people out of vehicles, and others helped to roll up the long hose pipes. It was so lovely to watch the children taking their experiences into the setting and role playing using the dress up and resources we have. A big thank you to the Baldock Fire Service for their help in making our Fire Awareness Week a success.

From all the staff at The Early Bird Pre-School