



WATERBEACH TODDLER PLAYGROUP

Burgess Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9ND

– Telephone 0780 835 7729

Registered Charity number 292913

www.waterbeachtoddlerplaygroup.org.uk

Spring Term 2010

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Hopefully you all enjoyed the Christmas break.

We have started the new term with a new member of staff. Ceri Hill joins us for the rest of the academic year, working in both the afternoon sessions and the mixed morning sessions. Ceri brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the playgroup, and we look forward to working with her. I'm sure that you will all make her feel very welcome.

Thanks need to go to Gina Clark for all the extra hours she worked last term. Gina will now be working in the Advancing 4's group on a Monday and Wednesday morning. We also wish her luck as she starts her NVQ at CRC this term.

Nature and Interest Shelf

Our Nature and Interest shelf will reflect aspects of the topic's throughout the term.

Toys from Home

We are aware that some children have special toys/ blankets they cannot bare to be parted from and, as long as the child is happy, these things are welcome to join your child at playgroup. However we do ask that any other toys are kept at home as they do cause quite a few arguments with other children when they want to play with them!

Timings of Sessions

The guidance for Sessional Care that we are issued with from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (formerly the Department for Education and Skills ~ DfES) clearly states that 'There must be a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider'. This means that we have to have a break between the morning and afternoon sessions on a Monday and Wednesday (11.30 - 12.00 noon) without any children in the playgroup building. Of course there will be times when this is not possible and we are quite flexible but, we do ask that you observe the timings of sessions as much as possible ~ this then gives us the time to clear up between sessions and prepare for the next, ensuring a smooth running of the sessions.

It is imperative that these timings are observed so that the staff have the opportunity to be able to prepare for the afternoon session.

Collecting and Dropping Off at the sessions.

When dropping your child off at one of the sessions, please be aware of the time that the session starts, either 9.00am or 12.00pm. The staff need time to prepare the sessions before the children arrive, carrying out the daily checks and other tasks. Likewise please be aware that the sessions finish at either 11.30, 12.00 or 3.00. We understand that sometimes you may be early to collect your child, and if this is the case can we ask you to please wait near the top of the drive when the children are still playing outside. If a child see's another child's parent/carer arriving this may be unsettling for them, particularly if they are new to the setting.

Illness

A reminder that if your child has diarrhoea or sickness then we ask you keep them at home for **48 HOURS CLEAR after the last bout of illness**. Please telephone us if your child is ill in any way so we can maintain our registers correctly.

Please feel free to talk to us if you have any worries or concerns about your child; or if there has been a change in home circumstances. This information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will enable us to help you and your child through these periods.

Head Lice are a nuisance and spreads very quickly. It is important you let us know if your child has Head Lice and we advise that you check their hair regularly. These kept reappearing last term, so please do check!

Parent/Carer Rota

The rota is pinned on the notice board near the kitchen. It would be much appreciated if you, an aunt or grandparent have any time to spare to help out in one of our sessions. If every family put one name up each half term, then the rota would soon fill up! So please consider this when your child asks you to come in, its great fun and I'm sure you would want to come back again. Unfortunately due to insurance cover, we are unable to allow you to bring younger siblings with you when you come in to help. Thank you for your co-operation!

Wish List

I am sure most of you know, but our 'Wish List' can be found next to the parent/carers rota. If you are unable to come in and help on the rota, then you might like to contribute something to the playgroup. On the list are items such as crackers, bread sticks, etc. If you are able to help and donate something that would be fantastic!

Lunch Fee's

If your child will be staying for lunch on Tuesday's, Thursday's or Friday's, can you please ensure that you pay your lunch fee's on the day or in advance please. For those of you that like to pay in advance please see amounts below:

- 1 Day – £18.00
- 2 Days – £36.00
- 3 Days -- £54.00

Spare Clothes and Other Accessories

Starting last year we asked parents/carers if they could supply (in a rucksack type bag), a spare set of clothing, spare shoes, wellingtons, pac-a-mac, and sun hat that can be kept on the peg until needed. With the new curriculum we will be making the most of our outdoor time, even if it rains, yippee! . We will be carrying on with this from now on.

A large amount of our time at playgroup is taken up with having fun and getting messy. Although we take steps to alleviate most mess with aprons etc, as you know this is an impossible task with children. So please do take this into consideration when sending your child to playgroup. If you are having a clear out of some of your children's clothes, then please think of us before you dispose of them.

Hopefully, the weather is going to continue being warmer for a little while longer. Please remember to send your child to playgroup with a sun hat. We have a few at playgroup, but not enough for everyone! Please ensure that your child's hat is clearly labelled with their name. It's not going to be warm all the time, so please remember to send your child with a coat. We had a few children who attended last term without one! Likewise, when it starts to get colder, please remember to send your child in the appropriate clothing!

Community Notices

We have a dedicated community notice board situated on the wall by the kitchen door. Please help us to keep up to date with all the latest community activities and events by letting us know of any activities you know about and feel free to bring down a poster/flyer to display.

Auction of Promises

Our Auction is only a couple of weeks away now. Please put the date in your diary, it is at the end of this letter. If you have anything that you could contribute to this year's auction, then please speak to Emma (Lola's Mum), Tiffany (Ted's Mum) or Wayne.

Hopefully we will see you all there with your bidding numbers and raising a fantastic amount for the playgroup.

Nestle Box Tops

Please help us to collect 'Nestle Box Tops' to help in expanding our book collection.

Development Records

The development records will continue to be sent home for you to look at, at the end of each term, Christmas, Easter and Summer. Please do tell your child's Key Person whether your child attends any other settings if they are not already aware of this.

Home/Playgroup Books

Please remember to share with us anything that your child has enjoyed or achieved at home. We do find this useful when we do our planning, and also gives the children an opportunity to discuss things that they have done at home.

Please note that we now have 2 trays beside the book bag box. These are for you to place any Home/Playgroup Books with new entries in and also to place any forms/letters that have been completed and returned. Thank you for your help with sorting this out when you arrive at the session.

Parking

Can we please remind all Parents/Carers not to park in the parking bays at Hatley Court. These are their delegated spaces, and all Parents/Carers who wish to drive to Playgroup should park on Burgess Road, being aware of the residents' access to their property. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term Opens	Tuesday 5 th January
Auction of Promises	Thursday 4 th February, 8pm, The White Horse
Half Term	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February
Spring Term Closes	Thursday 18 th March

Playgroup Website

Please don't forget to visit our website, www.waterbeachtoddlerplaygroup.org.uk . Do you shop on-line? Well, visit our shopping portal on the website to gain access to lots of different websites. Everything from Amazon to Marks & Spencers! For every order placed through going through our portal will raise money for the playgroup. Please remember this when doing you internet shopping!
Thank you to Holli Bielby, Playgroup Secretary, for keeping the website updated for us.

And finally.....

If you feel you would like to discuss any issues or concerns with us, then please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a member of staff.

Wayne and The Team.