



WATERBEACH TODDLER PLAYGROUP

Burgess Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9ND

– Telephone 0780 835 7729

Registered Charity number 292913

www.waterbeachtoddlerplaygroup.org.uk

Summer Term 2009

Welcome back to the last term of the school year at Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup, and what a busy term it is going to be! We have various things to look forward to, including the Nearly New Sale, Feast Day, School Visits, Toddler Story, to name but a few!

Hopefully you all enjoyed a relaxing Easter break, and didn't eat too many Easter eggs! You will notice when dropping off your child, that playgroup is looking a bit different this term. This is because Wayne spent most of the break decorating the main playroom, and also we have had a new carpet fitted in the main room and toy cupboard. It's brightened up the room and it looks a lot fresher now. We have also got some new comfy seating in our reading area, a new shelving unit inside the playroom door and a new door mat as you enter the building. All of these items were purchased through a grant that we received from Heart fm. Thanks to Tosha Newark, Digi and Kalila's mum, for finding out and applying for this grant on the playgroups behalf.

We will hopefully be getting the outside of the building painted soon as well. Becky Howlett, Lottie's Auntie, has offered to organise for a group of her colleagues, from the Cambridge Building Society, to come and paint the building for us. Thanks to Becky and the Cambridge Building Society for offering to do this for us.

Nature and Interest Shelf

Our Nature and Interest shelf will reflect aspects of the topic's throughout the term, as well as items beginning with the phonic sounds for each week.

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.

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, milkshake 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 – £12.50
- 2 Days – £25.00
- 3 Days -- £37.50

Spare Clothes and Other Accessories

Beginning this term we are asking 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! .

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 start to get warmer now. 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!

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.

Feast Day!

Feast Day is fast approaching!! Please look out for a letter shortly explaining more detail. Many thanks to those Parents/Carers who have volunteered to dress up and walk in the parade.

The committee will shortly be putting a rota out for the day to help on the stall, so if you are able to spare an hour and help out that would be much appreciated!

Nestle Box Tops

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

Development Records

As you were informed in a recent letter, the developmental records that we keep on your child have been changed. These will be going out in the first week back, and we hope that you will enjoy reading through your child's achievements so far in the academic year,

Tesco's Vouchers for Schools and Clubs.

We are now registered to collect these vouchers at the Playgroup. Please remember to bring them in and place them in the box for us. Hopefully we will collect enough to acquire some more equipment.

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.

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

Summer Term Opens	Tuesday 21 st April
Nearly New Sale	Saturday 25 th April – Waterbeach School Hall
Toddler Story	Thursday 23 rd and 30 th April, 7 th and 14 th May – Community Building, Waterbeach Primary School, 2.50pm-3.15pm (for all those children attending Waterbeach Primary School in September)
Bags to School	Monday 27 th April
May Day	Monday 4 th May – Playgroup Closed
Half Term	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May
Summer Term closes	Friday 17 th July *

* Please note that there is likely to be a party day and/or a trip before the end of term, hence normal playgroup sessions may finish before Friday 17th July

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 updating the website 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.