

The Old Station Nursery, Newark College Newsletter
May – June 2010



Welcome to our summer newsletter and it's great to see everyone looking happier now that it's warmed up a bit and we can all really enjoy being outside, rather than enduring it! Paula (our Ops Manager in Lincolnshire) and Maxine (our Waddington Nursery Manager) have been attending a series of training days about how to develop outdoor practice and to provide greater experiences for children outside. This has already included a staff training evening at Waddington which saw a lot of 'big kids' playing with water, guttering, funnels and hosepipes. We will be sharing the programme with all the managers through a series of staff training sessions and hope to see lots of new ideas across the nurseries.

We have been following the political developments with interest over recent weeks, as any new policy could have a real impact on how we deliver the free Early Years Entitlement, as well as possible new direction on training and qualification requirements. I've put a section in at the end of the newsletter to let you know how you can have your say in shaping new policy, so do complete the NDNA survey if you are able to. As always, we'll keep you posted on any developments that we are aware of. I mentioned the introduction of the 15 hours per week funding in my last newsletter; some of our nurseries are already delivering this as part of pilot studies, but all will offer it from September. Your nursery manager will let you know how this will affect your invoice and any changes to session times.

In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine, for as long as it lasts and don't forget to send a sun hat and sun cream in with your child, to allow us to keep them safe in the sun.

Best wishes,

Sarah Steel
Managing Director

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome to our latest newsletter. I'm relieved that we are now seeing some signs of summer, and as such, please could you remember to bring in named sun cream and a named sun hat for your child; if you would like to apply sun cream before your child arrives at nursery then we will top it up throughout the day as required. Please could you also provide a water bottle for your child. We like to spend a lot of time in our garden during the summer and the children can take their water bottles outside with them and choose to have a drink whenever they need to.

Our project for the next few weeks will be the beginnings of a growing topic for our garden. We will be planting and growing our own sunflowers which we hope will help to build on general knowledge and understanding of the world and encourage the children to want to grow and care for their own plants. We plan to add an element of competition and fun to this by seeing who can grow the tallest sunflower. As a part of this topic we will also be growing our own tomatoes and strawberries, which the children will be able to care for and taste when they are ready.

Staff news

Emily and Stephanie have recently started an Early Years Foundation degree with the Open University; this will enhance their knowledge and practice which will benefit the nursery. Leanne is now near the completion of her NVQ Level 3 and Emily will be attending a course called 'Lets Interact', from which she will bring back ideas on how we can best support the children throughout their day. Stephanie will be stepping into Emma's shoes while she is on maternity leave and supporting Alison.

I would like to thank all parents who came along to the parents evening. It was wonderful to see you all and the staff were very pleased with the feedback that you were able to give us about your child and the changes that we have recently made within the nursery. I'm thrilled with how positive your comments were. We will be continuing to make small changes to improve upon our practice – if you have any suggestions you would like to make on these changes please speak up; we love new ideas and others' opinions.

Invoicing

The company have introduced a new system to help with the smooth running of the nursery administration. At the moment there are some small hic-ups but please bear with us as we are sorting these out as quickly as possible. We are sending our invoices by

email from now onwards - if you have had trouble accessing these then please do come and see me. Please remember to keep us up to date with your email address to ensure this system runs smoothly.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Emma and Daniel on the birth of their baby son, Alfie Thomas, and also to Katrina, David and Christian Inger on the arrival of their son Thomas.

Other news

We would like to say a warm welcome to our new starters Samuel, Dekota, Ella and Tyler. We hope they enjoy their time with us.

Best wishes, Alison



PAYMENT OF NURSERY FEES FROM 1ST JUNE 2010

As you may be aware, we are in the process of registering with the bank to accept payment by direct debit, as well as standing order and on-line bank transfer. We had hoped to have this in place by 1st June, but the whole process has taken longer than we had hoped and will not now be ready until 1st July at the earliest. We will therefore continue to accept cheques and cash until this date, but would encourage you to look at alternative methods of payment in the interim. We have now successfully installed card payment machines at most of our nurseries and where they are not available you can pay over the phone by card, so please do make use of this facility. We will keep you informed of the change over to electronic payments over the next month.

ARE YOU PREGNANT? DOES ANYONE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY SUFFER FROM ECZEMA, ASTHMA OR HAYFEVER?

The University of Nottingham and Lincolnshire NHS Hospitals are running a fully funded BEEP study into preventing eczema in newborn babies. If you are interested in taking part, please contact

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PARENT FACT SHEETS

We have recently started compiling a series of parent information sheets which are available to download from our website. This month we focus on 'Toddler Tantrums' and 'Biting in the Toddler Years'. Do keep taking a look because we will be adding more each month – we hope that you find these useful.



HAVE YOUR SAY TO THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT CHILDCARE ISSUES

There have been so many changes over recent years to how Early Years is funded and controlled by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. In the run up to the election the trade bodies who represent both the childcare sector and parents' interests lobbied hard to the 3 main political parties, to remind them what issues they considered should be at the top of the agenda for a new government. The National Day Nurseries Association, our main representative body, is now working hard to ensure that parents and nurseries are represented by the new coalition government. They have asked both nurseries and parents to complete an on-line survey to inform their initial briefings with the new government. If you would like your views to be heard (including those on how the Early Years Entitlement should be administered), then please do go to:

www.ndna.org.uk and click on the 'parents' link.