



# June Newsletter 2015

**Dear Parents/ Carers**

Welcome to the June newsletter bringing you up to date with what has been happening here at Toy Box during the month of April as well as our plans for the month ahead.

## **Baby Unit**

In the Pooh bear room this month staff have put lots of effort into helping the children develop their Physical skills. Many of our little ones are beginning to pull themselves up at pieces of furniture so as an incentive we have been placing objects of interest on table tops to encourage this further. Outdoors the children are closely monitored as they pull themselves up on the tyres and at the little table. During free play the children are encouraged to move around the room themselves and some are even taking first steps with the walker. With these skills being promoted I'm sure they will be up and about and causing trouble in no time.

We have recently purchased a scuttle bug and a scramble bug. These are bikes which are designed for the younger children. The scramble bug has four wheels, it helps children to practice balance skills and by using their feet to move the bike along it also promotes the development of muscles in the legs. The Scuttle bug trike has three wheels, providing a stable ride which helps children master their balance. To steer these also requires hand eye coordination. As you can imagine all the children were very excited about these new resources so they all wanted to go on them. The staff have continued to promote sharing through this.

A big focus in the Rabbits room this month has been exploring our foam bricks. Many of the children have joined in activities such as printing with the bricks, drawing around them, balancing them to construct small towers and even sticking them together with shaving foam. This has all been documented and some of the children's work and photos are display in the Rabbits room for you to view. Through these activities we have explored many areas of the EYFS, mainly focusing on identifying the colours and shapes of the bricks, and the colours used during printing.

Throughout May the Rabbits have been developing their independence skills. They are encouraged to find their own coats from a group before going outside, and some will even find their friends coats too. At meal times the children are encouraged to pour their own drinks, and at breakfast and snack, they also choose whether they would like to drink milk or water. They are enjoying these experiences and the staff have included these skills in other parts of the curriculum such as providing jugs in the sand and water so the children can practice pouring.

Rabbits have also been enjoying lots of stories. The older children show good concentration skills as they listen to the story, listening to how the practitioner changes their voice. The younger children also enjoy this time as they like to point at the pictures in the books. This is a fantastic way for young children to have their first experiences of text.

## **Early Years Unit**

In the Early years unit for the month of June a big focus has been on maths. We have developed 2 maths areas one in the Piglet room and one in the Tigger room. These areas have been filled with mathematical equipment to enhance the childrens mathematical language and skills.

We have bought new resources such as calculators for simple mathematical equations, scales for weight comparison and have also put out alot of maths resources we already had within nursery they are all proving a big hit with the children and we have seen lots of new learning opportunities arise.

Another big focus has been in the outdoor area, and trying to incorporate nature to enhance understanding of the world. The children in Piglets and Tiggers have been planting plants in troughs under the canopy and sewing grass seeds in tyres on the green. The new plants are then being cared for by the children thus being watered on a daily basis a giving the children chance to “show care and concern for living things”.

Another change which you may have heard the children talk about is the nursery shed. The children are absolutely thrilled at the fact they can now go inside the shed and choose their own resources for outdoor play. we are trying to encourage the children to be independent in choosing their own play resources and materials they already do this indoors so we decided to extend it to the outdoors to. The children can now access the shed and can choose bats, balls, dolls, role play, mark making, books and numerous other resources to play with then when they have finished they put it back and can get something else. This is proving a big hit with the children.

In the Piglet room as with the rabbits we have started the children self serving their breakfast and dinners. The children will have the main part of the dinner in their bowl they are then given the vegetables and potatoes etc to serve themselves. The children are also pouring their own drinks and as before putting on their own coats, which surprisingly lots of the 2 year olds can do.

## **Birthdays**

We have 9 birthdays this month here at Toy Box and I’m sure you will join with us as we wish them all a very Happy Birthday.

Rabbits	– Isla 2
Piglet	– Adam 3, Freddie 3, Emily 3
Tiggers	– Mia 4, Alfie 4, Madison 4, James 4, Keeley 4

## **Staff member of the month**

The award for staff member of the month for June goes to Lauren. Since taking on a full time role as Key Person Lauren has gone above and beyond to fulfil this position. She has had many new ideas which she has implemented them with the children i.e. new circle time ideas which are fun but also educational. Well done Lauren!!

Please continue to nominate staff for this award as it means a lot to know they are appreciated for all the hard work they do on a daily basis.

### **Nursery Photographs**

Nursery photographs are taking place on the Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

If your child would not normally attend nursery on that day but you would like to have his/her photo taken there is a list on the office door for you to make an appointment please see me Louise or Georgia to book a time slot.

### **Teddy Bears Picnic**

We will be holding a Teddy Bears picnic on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June in order to raise money for the Crackerjacks children's charity. We are asking children to bring their favourite teddy bear to nursery on the day so we can have a picnic. Whether permitting we will hold this outside in the nursery playground. We will be asking for small donations on the day to support the charity.

### **Parent Evening**

We would like to invite you to a parents evening on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June beginning at 6pm. The aim of this evening is for you to have the opportunity to discuss with your child's key person their developmental progress.

A separate letter will be sent out for you to make an appointment with your child's key person so that a time slot can be allocated. In order to ensure everyone can be allocated an appointment, each time slot will be for 10 minutes each.

**Due to space we can only allow 2 adults per child and unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate any children during the evening.**

### **Dates to remember**

First day of term for	<b>GRANT ONLY CHILDREN</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2015
Nursery Photos		Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
Teddy Bears Picnic		Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2015
Parents Evening		Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2015

### **Reminders for Sun Hats, Sun Cream and Spare Clothes**

Staff also asked me to remind parents/ carers that should your child /children be in the process of potty training it is important to ensure there is always a good supply of nappies and wipes in your child's box. We do not stock spares so should your child/ children run out of nappies we will have no alternative but to ring you up and ask you to bring some nappies into nursery straight away.

Please help staff to avoid having to resort to these measures by ensuring that your child/ children always has a good supply of nappies and wipes in his/ her box.

Lastly, as summer has now supposedly arrived, please ensure your child/ children come to nursery every day with a sun hat and sun cream.

If your child has sun cream left over from last year please be aware that most sun creams have a shelf life of twelve months.

A big thank you to the parents who already do this. It is greatly appreciated.

**And finally.....**

As usual we thank all parents/ carers for your continuing support. Please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

**Kerry and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**