



# May Newsletter 2015

## Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the May 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 Personal, Social and Emotional skills through play and the sharing of toys. Whilst sitting on the rug staff encouraged the children to pass toys back and forth to one another. They all very quickly got the idea and had great fun interacting, sharing and exploring.

Another big focus in the baby room throughout the month has been on textures. The staff used various resources including sand, bubbles, leaves, shaving foam and flour and water, mixing everything together and making a really big mess, which the children loved. They all thoroughly enjoyed mixing and exploring the different textures using the mixture to make marks.

As the weather has been nice both Pooh Bears and Rabbits have been out and about exploring the local environment. They started off in the playground and throughout the month moved further afield to the park and the small woods across from the nursery, where they did lots of exploring. This makes a nice change for the children and they all thoroughly enjoyed the freedom of running around and kicking footballs about.

In the lead up to Easter all the children had great fun using their mark making skills to create lovely Easter cards. I hope parents/ carers enjoyed receiving the cards as much as the children enjoyed creating them.

Throughout April Rabbits spent lots of time honing their numeracy skills. Staff incorporated counting into day to day routines e.g. counting slices of toast and cups and plates at breakfast time and counting buttons and shoes when getting dressed to go outdoors.

Rabbits have also been looking at and naming simple parts of the body such as eyes, nose, ears, mouth, hands, feet etc. This activity always ended with the children singing "Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes," which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

### Early Years Unit

In the Piglets room the focus has been on literacy and numeracy. The children have particularly enjoyed doing 'Silly Soup' which is a basic phonics activity used in the Tigger

room on a daily basis. The Piglets thoroughly enjoyed this activity and felt very grown up as they are aware the Tiggers do this activity as well.

Throughout April staff also started to introduce Numicon, a visual way of looking at number to the Piglets. This is a very hands on way for the children to learn and experiment with numbers. Each piece has the number of holes which represent the number eg 3 holes in a piece represent the number 3.

The Tiggers have also been concentrating on developing their Literacy and Numeracy skills through messy activities involving shaving foam and gloop and measuring ingredients to mix and make play dough. They particularly enjoyed practising writing their name on paper and were very proud of their achievements.

The Piglets and Tiggers also enjoyed spending time together doing an Easter egg hunt during the Easter holidays when the nursery was quiet.

Like the Baby Unit all the children downstairs in the Early Ears Unit created some lovely cards for Easter, which I'm sure parent/ carers were thrilled to receive.

### **Birthdays**

We have 10 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	– Montanna 2
Piglet	– Scarlett 3, Callum 3, Jenson 3, Logan 3, Vienna 3
Tiggers	– Layton 4, Mia 4, Alydia 4, Dylan 4

### **Staff member of the month**

The award for staff member of the month for May goes to Sarah Butterfield. Sarah works in the Piglet room and once again has been nominated by parent/carers for always being so cheerful, and on hand with support for everyone. Well done Sarah!

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.

### **Staff Changes**

As you will all no doubt be aware by now, Joanne left Toy Box last week. We have been and still are making every effort to recruit a new manager, but in the meantime I am taking over the role of Acting Manager.

We have carried out a couple of interviews but so far have not found anyone to get excited about. I am sure all parent/ carers will be aware of the importance of finding the right candidate so please bear with us as we continue our search. In the meantime I am more than happy to fulfil the role.

Lauren Wilson, who has worked here at Toy Box for two years and has just completed her NCQ Level 3 training is stepping into my role as Key Person in the Tiggers.

Another exciting staff change involves Georgia Tomlinson who works in the Piglet room. Georgia has been promoted to the role of Room Leader in the Piglet room and is very excited about taking on her new responsibilities. Georgia has worked here at Toy Box for 4 years now and is a dedicated and experienced member of staff.

These changes will help and support both Louise and myself to ensure smooth running of the nursery on a daily basis.

We have also appointed a new Nursery Assistant, Paulina Wojnicz to cover staff holidays and generally help out during our busier times. Paulina's mum already works here at Toy Box as our general assistant so hopefully Paulina won't have any trouble settling in. Paulina has achieved NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social care and is interested in furthering her career in childcare.

### **Dates to remember**

Last day of term for **GRANT ONLY CHILDREN** ----- Friday 22<sup>th</sup> May  
Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May-----**NURSERY CLOSED**  
First day of term for **GRANT ONLY CHILDREN** ----- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

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

As the weather is starting to improve it is important that your child/ children bring a sun hat and sun cream to nursery on a daily basis. The hats and sun cream can be stored here at nursery if parent/ carers so wish. Staff cannot allow children who do not have hats or sun cream out when it's hot and sunny.

After our long cold winter we all need as much sunshine as possible so it would be a real shame if your child/ children had to spend the day indoors simply because they didn't have suitable outdoor summer protection.

I would also like to remind parent/ carers of the importance of ensuring your child/ children have a spare set of clothes in their bag on a daily basis. This applies whether your child/ children are potty trained or not. All the children have access to wet messy play every day and as our stock of spare clothing is severely depleted it can pose big problems if a change of clothing is required.

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**