



October Newsletter 2015

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the October newsletter and to the start of yet another Academic year. Each year seems to fly by more quickly than the last but this year in particular seems to have disappeared in the blink of an eye. It seems quite unreal that we are making preparations for Christmas already.

All our Tiggers have finally left to start school and we have been joined by some new faces, who, for the most part appear to be settling in really well.

Baby Unit

Throughout the month of September in the Baby Unit the main focus has been on independence. As a result the children in both Pooh Bear room and Rabbits room are now serving themselves with breakfast, lunch, snack and tea.

At breakfast time the children are offered a choice of cereals and staff support the children in scooping their chosen cereal and pouring on the milk. Similarly at both lunch time, snack time and tea time the children are encouraged to serve themselves. They all thoroughly enjoy this newly acquired independence and are getting more confident by the day. As well as being enjoyable for the children this activity also helps support all areas of their development.

Another big focus has been on sorting and counting objects. The aim of this activity is to encourage early mathematical skills based around number, pattern and shape. The children are encouraged to count stairs on the way out to play, cars and bikes in the playground as well as their plates and cups at meal times.

Through the exploration of messy play both Pooh Bears and Rabbits have also partook in various activities which help develop their fine motor skills. Some of these activities included sticking, play dough, shaving foam and gloop play, all of which created a lovely mess for staff to clear up.

Louise has put in a request for lids from baby wipes packs which she will use to make sensory resources for the Baby Unit.

Early Years Unit

Throughout the month of September our 'new' Tiggers have really enjoyed settling into their new room and learning their new routine. The children who were already Tiggers here at Toy Box have really enjoyed role modelling for new children who have come into the group.

Throughout the month the main focus in the Tigger room has been on phonics. The children have been looking at, and learning phase 1 phonics and the letter group s, a, t, p, i, n. All the letters have a song and actions and the children may well be practicing at home. Staff extended the activity to the outdoor area by giving the children big paint brushes and water and encouraging them to "paint" and "draw" on the floor, walls and fences.

All the children have also enjoyed the new ICT and Multicultural areas within the Tigger room. The ICT area has tape recorders, recordable microphones, cameras and torches. This is proving to be great fun especially when the staff sings silly songs into the microphones for the children to listen to. The multicultural resources are all about Egyptian artefacts and include jewellery, books and hieroglyphics, which the children have enjoyed looking at and exploring.

Throughout the month the Piglets have also been having fun with sensory activities. They have been playing with ice cubes, flour, gloop, paint and shaving foam , all lovely messy activities which provide lots of opportunity for language development and discussion.

Now that autumn is on its way staff have been talking to all the children about the different seasons and the changes we are likely to see as autumn set in. Discussions around the change of temperature links in nicely to the development of self help skills with the children being encouraged to put on and fasten their own coats and shoes when they go outdoors.

The Piglets have been looking at numbers and counting from 1 to 10. Staff incorporates counting into as many activities as possible throughout the day. For example at meal times the children count the cups, plates and cutlery and are now becoming very competent.

Birthdays

Piglet	Lily-Rose 3, Isaac 3, Mollie S 3, Peighton 3
Tiggers	Ava 4, Corey 4, Oliver 4, Mia M 4.

Staff member of the month

Staff member of the month this month goes to Georgia.

During September Georgia has worked really hard, taking on board suggestions from both our Early Years Consultant, Donna and myself and has really done everything in her power to implement as many of the ideas as possible. In her own time she sourced lots of new resources for our Construction Area and spent her nights driving round to collect the resources she had sourced. She has also stepped up her role within the nursery in the last month as she supports both Louise and me in our new roles.

So well done Georgia and thank you for your dedication and hard work. We all really appreciate your efforts.

Book of the Month - Funny Bones

The book of the month for October is Funny Bones. We have chosen this book as it fits in nicely with Halloween.

Staff will also use the story to talk about our body including taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell.

Photographer – Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October

KCT photographers will be coming to nursery over two days to take lovely photographs of your children. These photos make ideal Christmas presents and are reasonably priced too. If your child normally attends on one of these days the staff will automatically take them to have their photograph taken, unless you stipulate otherwise.

If your child does not normally attend on either of these two days but you would like to have their photo taken, we will be delighted to make an appointment at a specific time for you to attend.

Similarly, if you have older siblings who are at school and you would like them to be included, we can arrange an after school appointment.

Please speak to either myself or Louise and we will be delighted to make an appointment for you.

Dates to remember

Friday 23rd October – Last day of term (funded children only).

Monday 2nd November – First day of term (funded children only).

Halloween dress up day Friday 30th October

Staff News

We have finally got a new Nursery Manager, someone you all know very well! She has worked here at Toy Box for the past fourteen years and knows the nursery inside out. That someone is me, as after much deliberation I have finally decided to take on the Manager's position.

Having carried out the role now for the past six months I have discovered that I really enjoy the challenge it offers me. We have interviewed several prospective candidates but failed to find anybody whom we felt would or could fit into our very special close knit staff team here at Toy Box. Therefore it gives me great pleasure to announce that I am now officially the Nursery Manager here at Toy Box. Please feel free to congratulate me as you walk past my office!

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