

TODDLER NEWS

Hello everyone and welcome to the summer edition of Toddler News. The main event of this year has been the fantastic news about the grant allocated to toddler groups across the district by BEYCP. The resources commissioned groups have received with this money are part of an ongoing project to encourage speech and language development and to help raise literacy levels in the district. andrea-layzell@bradford.gov.uk would be pleased to hear from you with any comments you might have regarding the book corner resources. Also look out for more exciting initiatives linked to this project coming to your group in September!

Enjoy your summer.

Susan and Liz



bookstart

Book Start News

Would your group like to borrow up to 50 picture books for up to 12 weeks? The Book Ahead scheme allows you to choose and exchange your books termly. You can also visit your local library with the children in the setting. Your library would love to offer a story and craft session. All you need to do is ensure that you book at least three weeks in advance of the date you intend to visit. There will be no fines on overdue, damaged or lost books on the Book Ahead scheme. Contact Susan Brewster-Craig for further details on. **01274 433684**.

Born In Bradford

Born in Bradford would like to invite you to their annual Teddy Bears Picnic in Lister Park, Bradford on Thursday 1st July from 11.30 am to 2.00 pm

Recruitment to Born in Bradford is still ongoing with the total number of families now involved at around 11,000. Recruitment will continue until the end of this year when there will be around 14,000 families signed up to the project.

The Teddy Bears Picnic is a great chance for all Bradford communities to come together to celebrate another year of this unique study and to learn about the many services on offer in Bradford.

Exciting activities provided this year will include face-painting, story-telling, a bouncy castle, a fantastic puppet show and much more..... Hope to see you there.



Sun Safety

This term's project will focus on Sun Safety.

Liz and I have put together a package which includes action songs, crafts and a story as well as important safety messages for

parents. With a hopefully long hot summer on the way, we all like to be out of doors as much as possible, so please don't forget to follow the slip slap slosh rules. And protect yourselves as well as your children.



Training News

We recently held two Babies Can Sign training courses which have proved very popular with our groups. The link between language and literacy skills and children's experiences with books is very strong. Therefore giving them the opportunity to develop these skills in such a positive way can only aid their future development. If you need any extra support on this subject or to book a free taster session in your setting you can contact Vicki Gilbert at www.babiescansign.co.uk

Other useful websites are:

www.british-sign.co.uk - BSL resources

www.learnbsl.org - Free online BSL dictionary and downloads.

www.deagsign.com - wall charts, stickers, free downloads

Rainy Day Ideas



With the holidays coming up and toddler groups closing for the summer here are a couple of ideas for games to make and play at home.

SOUND LOTTO - You can buy a ready-made version of this game but it can be more fun to make one that relates to the sounds that are familiar to your child. You need to record a range of everyday sounds e.g. the tap running, the washing machine spinning, the door bell ringing, scrunching up a crisp packet etc. With younger children just play the tape and turn it into a guessing game.

To develop the game for older children you can let them help you to collect pictures which relate to the recorded sounds and stick these on cards to make a set of sound Bingo cards (These can be covered with sticky back plastic or laminated to make them last) Then its eyes down, run the tape and let children cover the pictures on their cards until they get a "full house".

Another simple sound recognition game involves half filling a set of small clear plastic bottles with a variety of items such as sand, rice, fish gravel, water, etc. (Adding glitter would make them more attractive). N.B. Please ensure they are securely sealed. Then let your child shake these to get used to the different sounds.

You can use the containers for a guessing game by shaking them out of sight of the child and letting them guess what is in the bottle.

Using Puppets in the Book corner

The use of a puppet can allow a child to enter a world of imagination and fun; they can become the 'wild tiger' in search of food, or the 'little boy' who wants to go to the park. Children are only limited only by their own imagination as they delve into a world of mystery and fun. Aside from the fun element of puppets, they can also play an important role in the learning and development of many milestones in a child's education and progress.



When used in your setting, puppets provide visual stimuli for children to relate to and can be used to encourage active participation in story telling or rhyme time activities. Using a puppet to act out certain parts of a story or to emphasise a certain factor, can play a part in engaging all the children and make them feel included within the story. Puppets can also assist children engage their imagination and act out certain situations with an ease and understanding that may not have surfaced before.

The use of a puppet or various other props during a story telling session can provide very different, yet positive outcomes when compared to simply reading a story to a group of children. Alison Dewsbury, in her book 'Parents as Partners' states that

'If reading or writing become boring or threatening, children won't learn effectively. Children are just like us and want to spend their time doing things they like and are successful at'.

There are many types of puppets, from marionettes, which are controlled by strings, and ventriloquist's dummies, down to finger and glove puppets which are more common. So don't be shy give puppets a try!

Safeguarding

The Children's Workforce Development Council has produced a CD and guidance booklet summarising safer recruitment called "Recruiting safely". The CD has sample safeguarding policies, and templates for all sorts of things such as interview letters, recruitment checklists and policies etc. Groups can obtain more information from 0113 244 6311 or by visiting www.cwdcouncil.org.uk or writing to CDWC, 2nd Floor, City Exchange, 11 Albion Street, Leeds LD1 5ES.

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Bradford Under Fives is a commissioned service for Early Years Child Care and Play

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