



# Newsletter

Spring Term 1 (January 2015)

[www.sprowston-nursery-playgroup.org.uk](http://www.sprowston-nursery-playgroup.org.uk)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and may we wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year! We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and that Father Christmas brought you all some lovely things.

A big thank you to all of you for supporting our Christmas Parties and Concert last term. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the lovely foods you provided for their parties. They were all captivated by the magic show in the morning (a few budding stars among us, I think!!) and enjoyed the visit from Father Christmas in the afternoon. It was also lovely to see so many of you at the concerts too, without you all we wouldn't have an audience, so thank you for coming along, we hope you enjoyed it.

We would like to welcome some new and some returning families to Playgroup this term. We hope you and your child(ren) will have an enjoyable time with us. If there is anything you are unsure of, please ask a member of the team, we like to think we are all a friendly and approachable lot!!

## Bad Weather Closure

Playgroup will be closed if either of the local Infant Schools are closed due to **bad weather**. Listen to BBC Radio Norfolk for this information, or check the Norfolk County Council Website: <http://www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Our name will **not** be listed amongst the school closures, so listen for either :

'Sprowston Infant School'

or

'Cecil Gowing Infant School'.

If either of these is mentioned or listed then Playgroup will be **closed**.

## Important things we need to know about your child:

Please remember to tell us immediately about any of the following changes relating to your child:

- Permission for who can collect your child
- Emergency contact persons & their up-to-date details
- Allergies/Health conditions (or suspected, undergoing medical investigation)
- Medication
- Change of address, home, work and mobile telephone numbers



Don't forget that if you lose or throw away your newsletter, there is always a copy for you to view on our website at: [www.sprowston-nursery-playgroup.org.uk](http://www.sprowston-nursery-playgroup.org.uk).

### What we will be looking at with the children this Half Term:

**Weeks 1 & 2:** (6<sup>th</sup> Jan - 16<sup>th</sup> Jan) - Welcome to 2015 & Cold & Icy Weather - Over these two weeks the children will be making a cut and stick picture of things they received for Christmas; snowball cakes; sewing cards and playing with an ice cube mountain in the afternoons (Brrrrrr!!) - *If you have any, please bring in old Xmas catalogues for cut and stick.*

**Weeks 3 & 4:** (19<sup>th</sup> Jan - 30<sup>th</sup> Jan) - Hot & Dry Weather - During these 2 weeks we will be making weather wheels and fruit salads. *Please remember your fruit these weeks as fruits salads are usually very popular!!*

**Weeks 5 & 6:** (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb - 13<sup>th</sup> Feb) - Wet & Windy Weather - This fortnight we will be making kites and valentine hearts, and some water play activities.

\*Please note that activities may change if they do not interest the children or resources run out, these are a guide only and we continually evaluate and develop our planning around the current needs and interests of the children \*

**Playgroup Clothing** - We try our best to change your children into their own clothing whenever we can, when they need it, however there are times when it is not possible to do this and we need to change your child into clothes which are owned by Playgroup. If your child comes home in clothes which you have not provided for them, **please wash and return the items to playgroup as soon as possible.** We only have a small amount of clothing and underwear as we only have a small area to store them in, therefore we would be grateful for the return of items borrowed. Many Thanks.

**Nativity Collections** - Thank you to all of you who were able to come and see the children's Christmas performance. We hope that you enjoyed it! Thank you for all of your donations made at the two nativity performances. Your generosity has raised a total of **£152.00** across the two days. This donation will go to 'The Sick Children's' Trust'. Thank You!



**Lunchboxes** - It would help us greatly if you could clearly name your child's' lunchbox and any separate drinks containers/cartons **clearly** on the **OUTSIDE**. Also a reminder that in accordance with our Policies, foods containing nuts, including peanut butter and hazelnut chocolate spread, are not permitted. Many Thanks.



**Snack time** - Thank you all for continuing to provide an item of fruit/vegetable or other food item for the children to share on our snack table every week. Due to change in legislation regarding food allergens and establishments who provide/package food on 1st December 2014, we will only be able to accept packaged foods in their **original packaging** (e.g. breadsticks, sultanas, naan breads, crackers etc.) Thank you for your understanding.

**Outside play**-We rely on you to provide your child with suitable clothing and footwear to take part in outside play. At this time of year, as well as a warm coat and gloves, hat etc., children do need to bring in a pair of wellies to change into when we go outside. **All Items brought into Playgroup MUST be named.** Wellies need to be left on your child's peg in a named bag in the morning and **collected at the end of their session.**



**Sharing of Learning Stories**- The Key person responsible for your child is able to share their learning story with you at any time. You are able to take it home and add photo's or information or to share it with your child's other playgroup/nursery/child-minder if you so wish, just please remember to sign and date the front sheet and return it so that your child's Key person can keep it up to date.

# Talk About...

We, as a Playgroup, have been involved with a local authority funded project called 'Talk About 2' since September 2014. Recently, the staff team have completed a training workshop as part of the Talk About project, to help them in their roles. This course was compiled and delivered by an NHS Speech and Language Therapist and was called 'Encouraging Language Development in Early Years Settings'. We are finding some of these strategies useful when encouraging children at playgroup to become confident communicators and we would like to share some of the information from the Talk About project here in our newsletter to help you at home when encouraging your child's language skills.

Becoming a confident and chatty communicator is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn, but it doesn't happen by accident. Our top tips give you ideas about how to support your child as they learn about language. As parents, you know your child best, it's important that children learn that language is useful, so giving your child a reason to communicate can help them learn.

**What is it all about?** You don't need to put aside special 'talking times' during the day, everything you do with your child is a chance to chat.

Everything from getting dressed, to preparing and eating meals, bath time and walking to nursery is a chance to talk about what you are doing together and showing your child the language that goes with that activity.

**If your child is not using words yet...**

Use lots of single words to talk about what you are doing and what you can see. Use fun words as well, like "whoosh!", "pop!", "moo", "uh oh".

**If your child is just starting to use words...**

Use lots of short 2 or 3 word phrases. Copy what your child says by saying it back to them, they might not say it very clearly yet, so by saying it back they get to hear how it should sound.

**If your child is talking in sentences...**

You can model the smaller words, like 'is', 'the', and word endings, like 'pushing'. Try and use action, object and describing words.



**At Bath Time...** "splash" "tummy" "boat" "hot" "bubbles" "pop" "Wash face" "big bubbles" "tap on" "look at the big bubble"



**When you go shopping...** "apple" "trolley pushes" "beans in trolley" "more grapes" "green apples" "let's find the tomatoes"

For more information and other useful tips the Talk About website is available at:

[www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.talkaboutnorfolk.co.uk)

If you would like to receive further tips direct by e mail, please e mail direct to [talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk](mailto:talkabout@nchc.nhs.uk)

Should you ever have any concerns about any of your child's development, please feel free to speak to your child's Keyperson.

### Spring Term 2015 Dates

**1st Half Spring Term** - Tuesday 6th January (9am) - Friday 13th February (3pm)  
*HALF TERM - Playgroup closed - Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February*  
**2nd Half Spring Term** - Monday 23rd February (12pm) - Friday 27th March (3pm)

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY

Our Playgroup aims to have regard to the Department for Education, Early Educations and childcare guidance 2014, together with the SEND 0-25 years code of practice 2014 on the identification and assessment of SEND ( Special Educational Need and/or Disabilities) and to provide a welcome and appropriate learning opportunity, for all children. Please see our Admissions Policy and our Equality and Diversity Policy for more information.

Our system of observation and record keeping which operates in conjunction with parents enables us to monitor children's needs and progress on an individual basis. Our aim is to provide for the developmental needs of each child within the group.

### **Procedure**

- The needs and progress of children who have Special Educational Needs SEND are monitored by the groups Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator SENCO and Key person.
- We work closely with parents of all children in the group to ensure that:
  1. The group uses the knowledge and expertise of the parents in planning provision for the child.
  2. The child's progress and achievements are shared and discussed with parents on a regular basis.
  3. Parents know the identity of the group Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator - Rachel Barrett
  4. Parents are aware of the arrangements and inclusion of children with Special Educational Needs and disability (SEND)
- If parents are aware of a difficulty with, or have concerns about, any area of their child's development, prior to their child starting at Sprowston Nursery Playgroup, they should bring this to the attention of their child's key person or our SENCO or the Supervisor, Carol Clarke during their pre-start visits.
- Should we identify that a child is not making expected progress there will be a graduated approach to helping the child, that will usually follow a step-by-step process:
  1. Assessment of the child's development will be shared with Parents. Parents will be advised of our observations and concerns and asked for some further information by their key person. We will continue to monitor the child and parents will be kept updated. Should progress continue to be delayed we will:
  2. Add the child to our Inclusive Practice Log and our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will meet with the parents to collect further information from them including details of any other professionals already working with the child. In agreement with the parent, a plan will be drawn up to help the child progress, with up to 3 specific targets and the support and actions required, for the child to achieve these. This is an Inclusive and or intervention achievement plan. We will continue to monitor the child discuss regularly with parents/carers. Should progress continue to be delayed we will:
  3. Staff will meet with parents to review the plan and discuss if we will need to seek advice of external professionals i.e. our Local Authority Early Years Advisor who may be able to provide specialist advice about supporting a child's specific needs and work together with parents/carers to ensure all the child needs are being met. Professionals may include therapists, health visitors, psychologists, social workers, paediatricians and portage workers. Parents will be made aware of and included in meetings between external professionals and our staff. It may become necessary to apply to the Norfolk County Council or other independent professional bodies for funding for additional resources and/or staff member to be employed to help support the child.
  4. A child could need help for only a short time or for a longer period, or possibly for the whole of their education. If a child at Sprowston Nursery Playgroup is identified as someone who may need ongoing support at school, we may help by supporting any application to the local authority for and Educational Health and Care needs assessment (EHC) . This is an assessment of a child's educational, based on specialist advice, which is considered by the local authority so that a plan can be made which will set out the provision that will need to be made for the child at school.
- Our staff attend, whenever possible, training on special needs arranged by Norfolk County Council and other professional bodies.