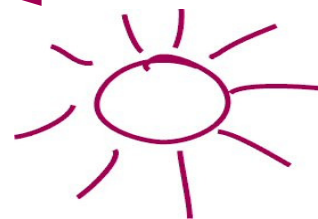


Summer 2008



Smisbydaynurserynewsletter

There's something in the water

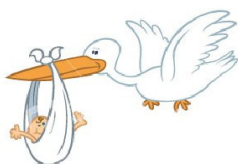
Our congratulations go out to not one, not two, but three members of staff who are pregnant.

Katie is expecting her second baby in July, Jessica is expecting her first baby in August and Debby is expecting her second baby in October.

We wish you all the very best girls and look forward to meeting these new bundles of joy.

Ian is currently taking medication for stress as every time one of the girls says "I've got something to tell you" he rocks uncontrollably in his chair.

Once this little lot have entered the world there will have been 10 babies born to staff during our 4 years reign at the nursery!



As a consequence of these new babies there are going to be a few changes to staff.

Cassie Cox joined the nursery in April. We already have a Cassie Fox in the nursery so this could prove to be very

confusing! The new Cassie joins us in the Pre-school room as a Nursery Assistant. Cassie is just finishing her level 2 and going on to study for her level 3.

Claire Janes is joining us over at Smiz Kids and is replacing Kelly Shaw who is joining the team in Toddler Room for the duration of Jessica's maternity leave.

Debby has moved from pre-school into Baby Room and takes over from Katie for a while, until she then goes on maternity leave. We will keep you posted on what happens next.

As Debby has now moved out of Pre-school Denise Treadwell has now undertaken the role of head of room on her own. She was sharing the job with Debby and together they have made some very positive changes within the pre-school room. Denise is well equipped for this role and as she is currently doing her foundation degree she keeps us all on our toes with current procedures etc.

When Jessica goes off on maternity leave Saira Stevenson will be acting



head of room for Toddlers. Saira is currently spending time with Jess in handing over and we believe she will fulfil this role with confidence.

We appreciate there are a lot of changes within the rooms and unfortunately we cannot always control them.

On the positive side we pride ourselves that we are not individual rooms and that the children get to know all the staff as we move about the nursery and staff are generally familiar with all the children and vice versa.

We are also welcoming back Louise our Domestic Engineer (cleaner) who left us on maternity leave. She is now back with us for three evenings a week and sharing the role with Karen, who was covering her maternity leave.

It's good to have you back Louise.

Decorating

As you can see we have been busy trying to spruce up the place.



There is still some decorating which needs to be finished and the new carpets and floors are being put down as we speak.



We have decided to have a policy of no shoes on the new carpet in Toddler Room and Baby Room and therefore would ask for your help in removing your shoes before you enter these rooms.

Improvements all have to be done at the weekend so please bear with us.



Thank you for coming to visit us!

We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Coker who kindly brought in his truck to show the children during their topic on transport.

It was like a dream come true to some of the children who were so

delighted to climb up into the cab and sit in the drivers seat.

It is with the help of parents that we can do so much more with the children to widen t h e i r



experiences.

We have in the past had police cars, fire engines etc. visit the nursery, and we are hoping to do more of these interactive visits.

If you know of anyone, or if you yourself have a particular interest or job that you think the children may benefit from, then please contact Denise in the pre-school room, who will be happy to discuss and organise a visit.



Slip, Slop, Slap!

It's coming up to that time of year when we will be utilising the garden even more, especially now that we have the new play equipment.

Last year was a real let down but we have higher hopes for this year.

We are hopefully going to be having longer sessions outside and will be moving some of our planned activities and tea times to the outside play areas.

What do we do?

We will provide shade for outside activities in the form of the large gazebo and drinks are always accessible to the children. We will help the children to apply sunscreen and ensure they are dressed appropriately.

What can you do?

Provide your child with adequate and appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. Hat's must be provided in the summer months and a suitable factor sun screen provided with your child's name on.



- Slip! Slip on a shirt
- Slop! Slop on some sunscreen
- Slap! Slap on a hat



New outside play equipment

Earlier this year Derbyshire Early Years recommended that we should put a piece of equipment, such as a climbing frame, in the garden. Eve Cook from Derbyshire Early Years advised us that there was a possibility of getting a grant towards the cost.

After much searching for equipment that could be used for children as young as two and in a Nursery setting which complies with all relevant legislation we eventually found something that was fantastic. The only problem was it was £8,500 and we applied for the grant in the hope of getting at least half of the cost funded.

Professionally installed in Spring 2008 this play equipment was funded entirely by the grant from Derbyshire Early Years. Without the grant we would not have been able to purchase such a

wonderful piece of equipment and we are very grateful for the grant.

Made by Rainbow Play Systems and called the "Sunshine Double Sunny Commercial" it has:



- 25 sq ft Clubhouse Fort
- 2 x 10 ft Slide
- Picnic Table
- Canopy Roof
- 5ft Crawl Tunnel
- 5ft Billy Goat Bridge
- 25 sq ft Castle Fort
- Rock Wall
- Jacobs Rope Ladder

- Ships Wheels, Binoculars and Periscope
- Sling swing & Baby Swing

We are hoping that the children will get many years of enjoyment from it.

We obviously owe a huge "Thank You" to Derbyshire Early years for this funding as without it we could not have been able to have such a large piece of equipment.

A new policy is being written to cover this equipment and to ensure that children are supervised correctly whilst using the equipment. Obviously minor accidents are unavoidable but we will be monitoring this equipment closely and risk assessing any areas of concern.



Race for Life



Unfortunately in the last 8 months both Ian and I have each had a sister who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

After surgery and treatment both are on the road to recovery. As a result I, along with Ian's sister Teresa, and our daughters, Laura and Heather, are doing the

Race for Life in Cambridge on Sunday 6th July 2008.

Lot's of the girls from the nursery are all taking part in races over the county too and therefore in the run up to this event there will be a collection box outside pre-school and a sponsor form for anyone wishing

to donate to this charity.

Your support would be very much appreciated. I'll keep you posted as to how the events go and even publish some photo's in the next newsletter.



Can you help?

We are always on the lookout for resources and we have one parent who provides us with the most wonderful paper supplies.

We also have a high turnover of clothes in the Nursery and After School Club - some of them never come back to us!



Newspapers and empty cartons and cardboard always get used, as do odds and ends of materials.

At the moment we are looking for the following items to help us with forthcoming topics.

- In Pre School – Old Children's wellies for planting
- Old CD's/DVD's for sun catchers and mobiles
- In Toddlers - we need boys pants and clothes (or at least some of ours back!)
- In Baby Room - Vests (We don't think Katie and Debby are eating them - but you never know!)

Ian would also like to ask any parent thinking of getting rid of toys, books or play equipment that has been outgrown to give him a call. Most of these items are never worn out and may have years of use still left in them and rather than buying new we would rather give you something for them. All we ask is that the items are whole and undamaged. The staff in the rooms will let you know if we can use anything you bring in. We will be honest and tell you if we cannot use any item.



Sponsored walk

Jess has volunteered to become Events Co-ordinator and therefore she is now responsible for organising charity events.

Coming up in the summer is the Teddy Bear Step out for children in aid of NCH the children's charity.

NCH helps the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and



inequality, so they can achieve their full potential.

The children will need to bring in a teddy bear on the day and will be doing laps of the garden. All rooms can take part, even babies

can be pushed around in pushchairs for the event. We may even have a picnic in the garden after the walk. Look out for posters etc. for all the details.



Ofsted - An Inspector Calls

On Friday 22nd February Ofsted graced us with their presence within the nursery for two days. The overall outcome was "Good" and the report is available on the website.

If you want to have a copy of the report and are unable to access it via the internet then please ask us for a copy.

As one inspector left on Monday 25th another arrived on Tuesday 26th to inspect SmizKids 511! The overall outcome for

our Out of school and Holiday club was "Outstanding".

Both these judgements are well deserved and we are very proud of both settings and all of the staff who work so hard to ensure that the children get the care and attention they deserve.

We were disappointed with the result for the nursery as we had issues with the inspector and the way in which the inspection was

undertaken. (We definitely do not have any rose bushes!)

We made an official complaint to Ofsted and a Sectional Manager came to visit us and apologised for elements of our inspection and the errors that were made.

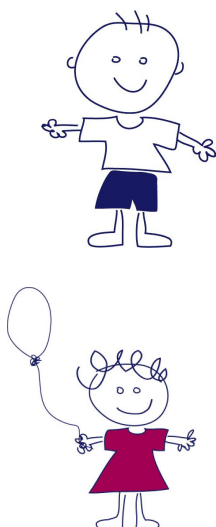
However they did refuse our request for a new inspection.

If anyone would like to discuss our concerns about the inspection please come and speak to Ian - he has calmed down now - just!



Themes and Topics within the rooms

Pet Corner



Toddler Room			
Month	Themes	Colour	Activities
May	In the Garden	Purple	Textures / Body
June	In the Garden	Yellow	Baby animals / Sticking / Food tasting
July	Under the Sea	Orange	Circus / Summer / Countries
August	Under the Sea	Pink	Books / Places we live / Jungle

We had 2 visits this month from animals in Pre-school. (I don't mean that the staff from Toddlers came down the corridor!)



The first was when Emma brought in her dog Ted.

Ted is a Clumber Spaniel and is a show dog that has been to Crufts. The kids loved Ted as he was a great big softie.

The second visit was from Laura of the PDSA. Laura brought in a dog called Barney who was a bit of "Heinz 57 varieties". He was a very good natured dog and the lady who brought him in got the

Pre School Room					
Month	Colour	Shape	Letter	Number	Topic
May	Purple	Circle	s, t, u, v	7, 8, 9, 10	Shapes / colours / time
June	Green	Triangle	w, x, y, z, a	Odd, even, 1, 2, 3	Jungle
July	Rainbow	Pentagon	b, c, d, e	4, 5, 6, 7	Our Safety
August	Orange	Rectangle	f, g, h, i	8, 9, 10, odd	On the beach / Summer

Final Words - by Ian

Four years ago this week Sheila and I walked into the Nursery for the first time as owners. I do not know who were the most nervous - the staff or us.

Since then so much has happened and we have seen a complete turnover of the children in the Nursery. This Summer the last of the children that were here on the first day will leave us and go onto their first day at school. I wonder who will be the most nervous, the children or the parents?

In 4 years we have changed everything in the nursery from the logos to the furniture, the décor and finally the floors.

A new baby sleep room, phonics programmes, the "Early Years Foundation Stages", another evolution of qualifications and new standards and regulations.

Yet the core issues that were here on day one are still the cornerstones of what we do today - care for children in the best possible way.

Letting them explore and learn through play, keeping them safe and happy and delivering them up to parents at the end of the day tired, full, happy and sometimes looking like "waifs and strays" because they have had the best fun.

Whilst this may not suit some parents we know that

the children have the time of their lives and parents frequently tell us they do.

No matter what the trend or fashion of the day children will still continue to learn through play. We are just happy to be able to give them the care and attention to help them grow into the confident young children going to school.

I still love every day I walk down the village to come to work.

Good luck in school all of you!

Don't forget, if you want a place in Smizkids let Liz know at the earliest opportunity. We only have a couple of spaces left!



children to listen to Barney's heart using a stethoscope. The kids were fascinated by this and really enjoyed it. The children all benefitted from being given some leaflets and colouring sheets and posters for the nursery and Laura gave the children lots of information about how to look after a dog.

Thank you Ted and Barney!

