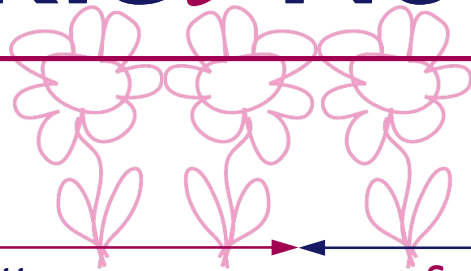




Smiz Kid New



Smiz Kids 511 Newsletter

Spring 2016

Meet the Team

Here is a little bit about our fabulous team in Smiz Kids. All the ladies also work within the nursery during lunch cover or at times when we need to cover sickness etc. This gives them plenty of opportunity to meet and get to know the children in the nursery, who often continue into SmizKids.

Liz Abell

Out of School Co-ordinator

Liz has been with us for 11 years as our Out of School Co-ordinator. Prior to that she worked as a supervisor in an out of school club for 6 years. Liz is an Early years Professional (EYP) and has many qualifications including Playwork and child protection.



Liz loves making things and often brings in her own specialist craft

equipment for the children to use. Liz also loves her garden too and has helped the children plant and grow various flowers and vegetables over the years.

A J Purnell (Ed: She won't let me tell you her full names!)

Playworker

AJ joined us in August 2014 as a Playworker. AJ has a level 3 Children and Young Peoples Workforce Diploma and an NVQ Level 2 in Children's Care, Learning and Development and Behaving Positively.

AJ enjoys working in both the nursery and Smiz Kids and has formed her own club within the club making models and painting figures a bit like War Hammer. This is very popular with many of the children and we hope to continue this or even run a separate session in the future.

In her spare time AJ also enjoys running paintball teams, computer games, painting and drawing, taking and editing photographs and looking after her pets which have ranged from Rats to Cats and Bearded Dragons to Lovebirds. AJ said "I really love doing arts and crafts with the children, and I'm always looking for new things that the children can have a go at".



Nicola "Clutch Rider" Maguire

Playworker

Nicola joined the Nursery in January 2015 and has just recently completed her Level 3 Early Years Childcare and Education qualification. We would like to congratulate Nicola for all her hard work.

Nicola started working in childcare when she was 16 and completed her level 2 Early Years Childcare and Education qualification whilst working for a Before and After School club. Nicola said "This is where I first met Liz - little did I know she would be my supervisor 13 years later!"



Nicola says she loves coming to work each day and has great fun getting messy and being creative.

When not at work Nicola can be found tinkering in the garage with her beloved classic mini or two. She shares this passion with my partner they can often be found at classic car shows buying shiny bits for the cars. Nicola also has two dogs called Ruby and Norman, who enjoy taking her for long walks.

Bernie Chamberlain

Playworker

Bernie qualified with an NNEB in 19** when she worked for Social Services. (Ed: censored because you never reveal a lady's age!)

Bernie joined us in September 2015 having



w o r k e d with under 5's for 40 years. She said "I am l o v i n g working with older

children and I especially enjoy the arts and crafts we do together".

Recently a full time vacancy in Toddler Room could not tempt her back into the Nursery because of the amount of paperwork involved - she says she will stay on the "dark side" for now!

In Bernie's spare time she enjoys attending various dance classes, loves gardening, cooking and walking.

Ideas

We are constantly on the lookout for ideas for activities & trips. Please feel free to let us know of a favourite place or a great activity - we would love to try them.

Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks to those who completed the questionnaires. 100% were happy with the service we are providing. We have analysed the information below and have taken all the comments on board. We are currently working through the comments and suggestions in order to improve and constantly strive to be the best we can. The comments and full analysis are available upon request from either Sheila or Ian.

Comments

Here are a few of the comments we received.

My children love coming to Smiz Kids. I had received recommendations about Smiz Kids and wanted my children to join, to such an extent I changed my days at work to fit around Smiz Kids availability. I am very happy with every aspect of Smiz Kids.

I can't praise the staff high enough. My child loves coming to Smiz kids. She is made to feel loved and valued by all the members of staff.

My child wanted to tell you how much she likes all the ladies at Smiz Kids.

I find you all brilliant from the top down.

The setting, in particular the outside garden is perfect.

The new Smiz Kids space is fantastic. It is wonderful for staff and children to have their own space and the environment you have created is welcoming and inclusive, really well done.

Love the fact you go to the park as well.

We really like the new Smiz kids building and the fact they can play outside when they want.

Management are always there to listen to any queries I have had.

My child's best interest is always put first. I know he is safe and happy at Smisby.

I absolutely love that everything is all at one location and could not live without Smiz Kids. Great having both children at the same venue.

Quality of care and support

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
68.4%	29.4%	2.2%	0.0%

On the whole there was high praise for the quality of care and support. Staff turnover was a concern for one and was perceived as quite high. We have had staff naturally move due to career changes. One of which returned to us very shortly after leaving. The nursery staff has 156.5 years of service between them which is extremely high. 16 out of 26 staff have more than five years of service and 6 have more than 10 years. Last year Dawn celebrated 20 years service with us. The management team have 60 years combined service. Some parents were unaware of our safeguarding policy. This and many other policies can be found in the main entrance in a folder labelled

'Parents policies'. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this folder. However, we are always on hand to discuss any concerns or provide information as and when required.

Many parents commented on how happy their children were and how they felt their children were loved and valued.

Quality of environment

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
72.2%	23.5%	3.1%	1.2%

It was quite strongly communicated that parents were unaware of the location of notice boards. There are many displays and information throughout the nursery which can seem like information overload. The parent's notice boards are there for specific information which you can check daily. Please ask a member of staff to show you where this is in your child's room. We are limited to space but will endeavour to contain all info for parents within these boards for ease of use and to improve communication and

information to parents.

The garden and rural nature of our setting was featured as one of our strongest points. Parents liked the fact we go outside frequently and that we take trips to the park and on walks around the village.

Quality of staffing

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
71.1%	27.8%	1.1%	0.0%

Parents felt that staff have good relationships with children and that they are welcomed as individuals. Children also comment on the bonds they have with staff. Parents felt staff listened to and implemented their wishes

and worked well in partnership with them. Staff are described as happy, bright and cheerful.

Quality of management and leadership

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
68.4%	29.4%	2.2%	0.0%

Many parents do not have direct involvement with the management in respect of the Directors and the Officer in Charge, but those who have were appreciative of the support they received and the swiftness and sensitivity shown when dealing with concerns/queries. The roles and responsibilities of management and staff will be covered in forthcoming newsletters which will give a better understanding of

what happens on a day to day basis.

Accounts were praised for being well managed. Queries were dealt with in a helpful and patient manner.

Suggestions for improvement and comments

Suggestions were varied and interesting to read. Some suggestions including parent and child sessions, newsletters, fun day and room topic information are already being considered. The newsletter will improve communication and along

with the Facebook page we hope that parents will get a better understanding on what happens on a daily basis and who is caring for their child.

Comments reflected that parents were happy with their choice of nursery. It

was felt that children enjoyed attending the setting and had positive experiences. Children and parents especially felt safe and valued. Parents felt strongly that they would and do recommend the nursery to others.

Analysis of children's comments

Our most important customers' comments were the children's. Smiz Kids were very vocal about the Wii and the activities and crafts they enjoyed. There were comments that made us smile and suggestion that we are considering.

Smiz kids comments were quite comprehensive and focussed on tea portions and food preferences, extra clubs (War Hammer, Gymnastics etc) and

availability of quiet areas. An Ipad and a request to 'make it summer' were also made!

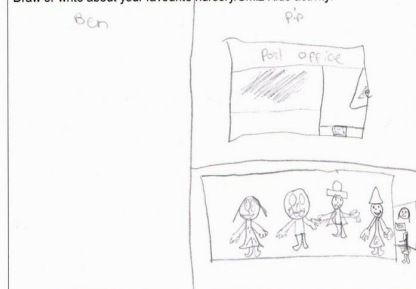
Here are some of their comments.

- I like making things, drawing and playing with the toys
- Seeing friends from other schools
- Playing games with the ladies – battleships, the post office, hairdressing, crafts, sewing, going to the park in the summer, food, watching a film at holiday club, sketch pads
- War hammer painting

Draw or write about your favourite nursery/Smiz Kids activity:



Draw or write about your favourite nursery/Smiz Kids activity:



- Just Dance on the Wii
- The people who look after us (Bernie, AJ, Liz, Nic)
- Post Office (stamps)
- Playing with cars
- Playing outside
- I like drawing and chalking and playing with my friends
- Drawing on the whiteboard
- The trips

Parent Help

As you can imagine we get through a huge amount of craft materials as there is always an activity or choice of crafts available on a daily basis in all the clubs. If you have any spare paper or unwanted craft material or if you have a friendly employer who wouldn't mind donating resources then we will always be able to put them to good use.

Do you have an interesting career or know of someone who would be willing to come in and talk to/demonstrate a craft or activity?

Facebook



Our Facebook page is doing very well. For those who use Facebook we hope the posts give you information of upcoming events and an insight into some of the things we get up to. It is kept up to date regularly and we would like you to add your comments, like us and rate us if you visit the page.

Goodbye's

Smiz Kids said goodbye to James recently as he is moving out of the area. James came to us as a toddler and his little sister Sophie joined us in baby room. They have been part of the family at Smisby for over 6 years and James had made the transitions through the nursery into Smiz Kids when he started school. We hope to keep in touch and see them occasionally when they visit.

Holiday Club

Our recent holiday club was very full and the children enjoyed a fun packed week. The theme was 'Around the world in 5 days'. They spent time cooking Chinese spring rolls, blueberry muffins and burgers, Greek butter cookies, cheese and oat dampers from Australia and honey bread from Africa. It put our new cooker through its paces and it seemed to survive the week.

Easter Holiday Club will be upon us before we know it. The Club runs from Tuesday 29th March to Friday 8th April 2016. The brochure is about to go to print and includes the activities on offer which children can take part in or they have the freedom to choose something different.

The Theme for Easter Club will be Spring and includes many different activities including trips out to The National Forest Adventure Farm and Tesco Farm to

Fork initiative. There will be cooking, crafts, planting, making nest boxes and feeders and of course CHOCOLATE!

The visit to Tesco on their 'Explore the store trail' is a great morning where children get to see the workings of the store and learn about the Farm to Fork scheme. We will be making use of this valuable resource on our doorstep in future clubs to help children learn where their food comes from. Here is what happens on the trail...

Children will get the opportunity to touch, smell and taste different types of fruit and vegetables and learn about how and where they grow.

They will go behind the scenes and meet the baker, learning all about how bread is made.

They will visit the cheese counter and get to taste cheeses they may not have tried before.

They will have a close encounter with fresh fish.

Children will also get the chance to experience parts of the supermarket customers don't usually get to see, such as the warehouse and chillers, as well as finding out why we store some food in freezers.

For more information please visit www.eathappyproject.com/after-school

National Forest Adventure farm

This is a full day trip departing at 9.30 and returning for 5pm. It's a fun packed day with many things to see and do especially at this time of year. There are lots of new little lives on the farm including, lambs, chicks and piglets and we may even get to see a lamb being born in the maternity unit.

PLEASE NOTE: Children will need to bring a packed lunch and wear sensible shoes/wellies and a waterproof coat. For more information on the farm please visit their website at www.adventurefarm.co.uk

Tea Time

Tea time in Smiz kids has always been advertised as a light snack which is not a substitute for an evening meal. Some parents have requested a more substantial tea and are prepared to pay extra for this. Unfortunately we do not have the ability to provide this but do feel we offer a significant snack which should bridge the gap between the end of school day and an evening meal. Other clubs offer as little as a biscuit and a drink.

Children are asked what they like and don't like and we do our best to accommodate their likes. As you can imagine we are not going to please all the people all the time but we strive to do our best. All dietary requirements are taken seriously and are accommodated.

These are some examples of what the children are offered.

- Bread, pitta's, wraps, crumpets or French stick with a choice of sweet and savoury fillings:
- Tuna/Jam/Cheese/Ham Lemon Curd /Marmite Chicken
- Side salad: Carrots cucumber/tomato/
- Jacket potato with beans/cheese/coleslaw
- Beans/Spaghetti on Toast
- Noodles (Most Popular)
- Soup (Not popular!)
- Sausage Rolls
- Pasta with sauce
- Quiche
- Pizza
- Fruit/Yoghurt/Jelly/Angel Whirl/Homemade cakes

Links with Schools - Cape Verde

Ian and Sheila visited a school in Cape Verde whilst on their holiday recently. They brought much needed resources with them, which were

gratefully received. We are now hoping to partner with them, and other schools and after school clubs, so that our children can send letters and photo's and

become pen pals. This will give the children a view of our world and how education and settings vary in the different countries we partner with.

New build for hire for parties at weekends

Now that our new building is complete it is available for children's parties at weekends and some evenings. Because it is a purpose built environment for children it is an ideal space for

their party. We especially feel that in the summer our garden, play equipment and space to play ball games makes it a perfect venue for parties. Hire costs are £11.00 for 1 hour, £22 for up to 2.5

hours £33 for ½ a day (4 hours) and £55.00 for a Full day (8 hours). Hiring costs will be added to your Nursery invoice. Please do not hesitate to contact Ian or Sheila for a booking form/conditions.