



## January - March 2010 Newsletter

### Staff News

Carol will be absent for a couple of months while recovering from an operation - we will all miss Carol and wish her a speedy recovery!

Natalie is now off on Maternity Leave and is planning on returning to Nursery after 12 months!

### Staff Training Update

In December most staff attended Literacy from Birth to 3 training from Primary Consultancy - this training looked at the importance of developing literacy skills from birth, and how to develop curriculum and practice to support this development. We discussed the use of eye contact, facial expressions and tones of voice, reading stories, singing nursery rhymes and one to one conversation from birth as important building blocks towards being able to read and having a good understanding of language. The course also looked at the differences in brain development in boys and girls and how to ensure the curriculum is meeting the needs of both at the early stages. This course supports our development towards priority 5.1 The Curriculum in our Improvement Plan.

**Since January staff have also attended the following training courses:**

**Melanie** attended Curriculum for Excellence - Literacy Across Learning. The course explored literacy experiences that promote the development of talking and listening skills, how to create a language rich environment to encourage early reading and writings skills to emerge. Melanie also had opportunities to discuss with other professionals ideas to develop listening skills and aural attention span, talking and turn taking in language and early reading skills such as the awareness of the nature and function of print.

**Nicole** attended Creating Confident Children at the Heart of a Curriculum for Excellence. This course focused on practical ways in which we can use active play to boost children's confidence and self-esteem, laying the groundwork for children to become confident individuals and successful learners.

**Nicole and Melanie** also attended a twilight training session organised by Glasgow City Council on Observation in Early Years. This session provided guidance on observation techniques to support the new curriculum. These courses were selected to support the development of our Improvement Plan 5.1 The Curriculum, and will help us to implement the new Curriculum for Excellence.

**Nicola** attended training on Growing Nurseries. This session provided lots of practical ideas for further developing our outdoor environment and eco-work and supports our ongoing development in these areas.

**Elizabeth** attended Managing Change which looked at the types of change in Nursery settings and how best to deal with them and to explore the impact of change and techniques to help manage change. This will support 9.4 Leadership of Improvement and Change of our Improvement Plan by giving insight into how best to manage improvement and development priorities.

At December's team meeting we consulted staff on what we hope to achieve from the in-house Observation and Assessment training - we agreed we need to further explore

- what observations to record
- how to share this information with parents and seek their views
- how to avoid repetition in observations
- frequency of observation

Kim, Elizabeth and Jean are currently preparing this training course.

### Tesco and Sainsbury Vouchers

This year we are again collecting vouchers from Tesco for Schools and Clubs and Sainsbury's Active Kids schemes. The physical play and garden equipment that we can claim with these vouchers supports our ongoing development of the front and back gardens.

### North Glasgow 5K

Following our success last year, staff will again be taking part in the North Glasgow 5K Fun Run on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April to raise money for the Summer Trip. We would like to invite all children and parents to come and join in, or just cheer us on! If you would like any information about registering for the event, please speak to Kim or Elizabeth.

## Nursery Monitoring

This term, January - March, we are monitoring

**Child at the Centre** 1 - Key Performance Outcomes, 3 - Impact on Staff and 4 - Impact on the Community, and **Care Standards** 3 - Health and Wellbeing, 6 - Support and Development and 7 - A Caring Environment.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and pop it into the Comments Box in Reception! Your views and comments are a very important part of finding out how the Nursery is performing and we use them to monitor our work and help us to improve areas that are important to **you and your child**. Thank you!

## Staff Supervision Policy & Procedure

In November 2009 we carried out parent and staff consultation on the Supervision Policy and Procedure for staff. Parents, and staff, identified some areas which they felt were important and should be included in Supervision, and we have now updated our Policy to reflect these changes, and the policy is displayed on the Staff Board outside the Office for your info - please have a look. The main changes are we are now including support for toilet training and verbal communication with parents and families in our sessions - this means that Kim will ensure staff are assessed on these areas and any improvements / developments can be identified and so improve the service for children and their families.

## Dates for Your Diary

- Parents' Forum meeting - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March @ 6pm
- Pre School & College Holidays - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April
- North Glasgow 5K Fun Run - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April
- Summer Trip - Date To Be Confirmed

**Thank you for your continued support!**



Christmas Party 2009



Christmas Dinner



Opening our Christmas presents



Stay'n'Play February 2010



Jack & Jill 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party



Face painting at the 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party