



### LEARNING THROUGH PLAY:

The International Charter of Human Rights Article 44 states "the Child's Right to Play."

Pre-school is all about having fun, making friends and building up self confidence.

Children's play reflects their wide ranging and varied interests and preoccupations. In their play children learn at their highest levels.

### **The 12 features of play:**

- In their play, children use the first hand experiences that they have in life.
- Children make up rules as they play, and so keep control of their play.
- Children make play props.
- Children choose to play. They cannot be made to play.
- Children rehearse the future in their play.
- Children play alone sometimes.
- Children and/or adults play together, in parallel, associatively, or co-operatively in pairs or groups.
- Each player has a personal agenda, although they may not be aware of this.
- Children playing will be deeply involved, and difficult to distract from their deep learning. Children at play wallow in their learning.
- Children try out their most recent learning, skills and competencies when they play. They seem to celebrate what they know.
- Children at play co-ordinate their ideas, feelings and make sense of relationships with their families, friends and culture. When play is co-ordinated it flows along in a sustained way.

As a pre-school we value your children's play, supporting them through their learning journey in an exciting and stimulating environment.

### **CURRICULUM NEWS**

The topic during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March was road safety. Pre-school hired a road safety kit, which included several mats which looked like pavements and a road, lollipop signs, fluorescent 'STOP' tunics and model sized traffic and pedestrian crossing lights.

On Tuesday and Friday morning a 'Funtime mum', who works as a police officer, visited pre-school with a colleague. The road safety kit was set up in the hall and the children practised crossing the road safely. The highlight for the children was being able to sit in the police car and turn the blue light and siren on! They also had the opportunity to try on handcuffs, police helmets and speaking to Charlie One, the Controller at the police station!



### **ZAP! POW! Here Come the Superheroes!**

*"Children's interest in superheroes can be met by something other than violent, impossibly powerful action figures".* A quote by Helen Bromley, the facilitator of the 'Communications in Language and Literacy' course which Rebecca Bate attended.

Helen explained how role play can help children immensely with their imagination and focused on superheroes. Rebecca learned that simple role play resources can help young children act out their heroes' actions imaginatively and that superhero role play enhances communication and literacy within the foundation stage environment. It also helps children explore concepts such as the triumph of good over evil, the notion of heroism and the possibilities that arise from possessing physical powers that are almost beyond belief.

Returning from the course with huge enthusiasm, she purchased a variety of different sizes of textured material and has put together a small box of superhero enhancing powers containing googly

eyes, some glitter balls, a large stretchy slinky and girl and boy superhero underpants!

The children can now make various cloaks out of the material and the superhero underpants help them practice putting their pants on!

Rebecca is also purchasing new books for pre-school. A favourite with the children is "Charlie's Superhero Underpants", about a little boy who goes on a worldwide search of his superhero underpants after they blew off the washing line! Can you guess who he finds wearing them?

### STAFF MEMBERS

- Angie O'Driscoll - Supervisor
- Frances Magnus - Senior Early Years Practitioner
- Karen Halbauer - Senior Early Years Practitioner
- Rebecca Bate - Deputy Supervisor
- Chloe Channon - Early Years Practitioner
- Caroline Moseley - Early Years Practitioner
- Katherine Hanson - Early Years Practitioner
- Marisa Reynolds - Administrator

### PRE-SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- Chair & Company Director: - Joanne Walsh
- Treasurer & Company Director: - Kate Johns
- Vice Treasurer: - Sally Moulding
- Company Secretary and Director: - Mel Leith
- Health & Safety Officer - Vacant
- Communications Secretary - Jennifer Rainbird

### FUNDRAISING TEAM

- Sarah Wright
- Sharon Lester
- Nicola Allan

## Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating Rebecca Bate who has been appointed Deputy Supervisor.

### Thank you Juliet!

At the last committee meeting Juliet Cheriton-Gerard stepped down from her committee role as Company Secretary and Director due to personal reasons.

The staff and committee would like to extend their enormous gratitude to Juliet for her incredible work over the last 2 years. She has been an extremely efficient and valued member of the committee and has been a wonderful asset to the running of the pre-school.

Legally we do not need to have a Vice Chair so Mel Leith (previously Vice Chair) has taken on the role as Company Secretary and Director.



*A big thank you to everyone who has completed and returned the various forms and questionnaires that have been sent out recently. We know we have been asking you all to sign quite a lot of documents, but they really are necessary for the smooth running of Pre-school and so that we can follow the correct processes and procedures. Thank you!!*

## DIARY OF EVENTS

<b>Sports Relief</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March Fancy Dress Day! £1 donation per child</b>
<b>Easter Holidays:</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>SUMMER TERM:</b>	<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>

### FUNTIME WEBSITE:

[www.funtimepreschool.org](http://www.funtimepreschool.org)

*If you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to speak with any member of the staff or committee or put a note in the red fees box at any time.*