

TAVISTOCK PRESCHOOL GROUP

BROADACRES, FLEET.
HAMPSHIRE GU51 4EB
TEL; 01252 616902

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1050163
www.tavistock-preschool.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1

Welcome

A big welcome to all our new and returning children and families. I hope everyone had a happy and healthy summer break despite the lack of summer weather!

Welcome also to all our new and returning staff! I am pleased to say we have two new play assistants joining the team - Rebecca and Helen.

EYFS

Those of you able to attend our very successful open evening in July will be aware of the importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which becomes statutory this month and the increased focus on 'learning through play'. If anyone has any questions regarding this, or anything else, please don't hesitate to ask.

Parents

Stay & Play

The EYFS curriculum has highlighted the importance of 'parents as partners' in their children's education. Tavistock Pre-school has an 'open door' policy. Parents/carers or other relatives are always welcome in preschool to share and contribute to their, and other children's learning. Whilst realising it is not always possible due to other commitments, we encourage you to stay and play when dropping your child off or come back early and join us when picking your child up.

Parent Tree

We have introduced a 'parent tree' which is on the wall in the playroom. This is designed so you, as parents, have an input in the planning of activities which now centres on children's interests. Please use the leaves to write on current issues in your child's life (e.g. 'went on a train', 'grandparents coming to visit', 'dentist appointment' etc) we will then try to incorporate these current issues when playing with your child.

Profiles

As partners in your children's education we encourage your input in their record keeping. Each child has their own 'profile' which, in addition to the recording of their achievements, contain formal observations as well as 'spontaneous' observations which we make while we are working with your children. We encourage you to help yourself to your child's profile when in preschool and add your own observations (e.g.: 'dressed himself independently this morning', 'said the sky was blue this morning', 'tried an orange for the first time'). Please use the white sticky labels hanging next to the profiles to write a sentence, date and sign it (mum, childminder etc) then slip it back in the plastic wallet and we will file it. Children's accomplishments and behaviours vary when at preschool or at home so to achieve a true record of their achievements we all need to know both sides of your child so please add to these observations as often as you can.

Key-Person

We have a 'key-person' system in preschool. Every child has a designated key-person; these have been allocated in accordance with when children and staff are in session. In a great number of cases the key-person will be in pre-school for each of their children's sessions, however as this has not been possible in every case, I have allocated a 'back up' key-person to cover the times when your child's key-person is not in session. I have attached a role description of the key-person with the name of your child's key-person/people. The EYFS places a strong emphasis on the role of the key-person - there is much research which supports the advantages of this relationship. Please use your key-person as your main contact with the pre-school as this will ensure continuity and full knowledge of current issues between your family and pre-school. This in turn helps the education of your child. Having said this, of course, you are more than welcome to discuss any issues with Fiona or me at any time.

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Access

Our lease dictates that the only pedestrian access to the preschool is through the front gate to the right of the school building. Please respect this single access route. PLEASE ENSURE YOU LOCK THE FRONT GATE WHENEVER YOU ENTER OR EXIT - THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN AND IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

Allergies

Please ensure that no peanut butter or loose nuts are included in your child's lunchbox, we have children with nut allergies and this is to protect them from a serious allergic reaction. Thank you on behalf of those children you are protecting.

Absence from preschool

Please complete a holiday form if you know in advance that your child will not be attending their normal preschool sessions.

Messy Play!

We promote lots of hands-on messy play activities both indoor and outside, whilst we do ensure children are wearing appropriate aprons/coats etc, and encourage their independence in remembering to do this themselves, they are bound to not come home as clean as when you dropped them off! Please dress your children in clothes/shoes which you do not mind them playing in - we don't mind if they are slightly small/old etc and would far rather that than having lovely clothes spoilt. The free-flow outdoor area will be open whatever the weather and it is the child's choice where they play - we will ensure children have their coats/wellies on as long as they are on their peg. We will also obviously change children if wet so please ensure a change of clothes are in pre-school. We do have spare clothes for those times when needed but not enough for everyone at once!

Suggestion Box

Whilst I encourage verbal communication between us all, I realise there are times when this is not possible so I have put a suggestion box on the wall by the parent's notice board - please use this to make any comments (good or bad!) or suggestions (or offers of help with story reading, talking about your job, sharing a skill, bringing a pet in etc) of how we can make the pre-school the best it can possibly be - whilst we as practitioners are using our skills and ideas to enhance the education of your children, a parental viewpoint is valuable and communication of your suggestions is always appreciated.

Who's Who at Tavistock?

<u>Manager</u>	<u>Deputy Manager</u>	<u>Senior Play Assistant</u>	<u>Play Assistants</u>
Paula.	Fiona.	Seong.	Natalie. Helen. Rebecca. Kim. Cynthia

It is an exciting time in Early Years Education. We are a dedicated team here at Tavistock Pre-school who are committed to ensuring your children achieve their full potential within a warm, friendly and supportive environment. We are looking forward to sharing in their development and learning over the next academic year.

Paula & the Tavistock team.