

TAVISTOCK PRESCHOOL GROUP

BROADACRES
FLEET
HAMPSHIRE
GU51 4EB
TEL: 01252 616902

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1050163
MANAGER: PAULA PHILLIPS. BA.

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2



OPEN EVENING/AGM

A big thank you to those of you who attended our Open Evening/AGM on Friday. There was a very good turn out. The wine, 'Pampered Chef' curry and Indian nibbles were enjoyed by all! We even had the opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping with the jewellery & card stalls (some of us could have avoided our entire gift shopping with the luck of the raffle draw!) We had a fantastic response to the enrolling of new Committee members so a big thanks goes to them, also thank you to the main Officers of the Committee who stood once again and were voted to stay; Sam Moulton as Chairperson, Catherine Schlieben as Secretary and Esther Berry as Treasurer. We look forward to working with the new Committee team to achieve even bigger and better things!

NEW FACES

As I am sure you are aware we have an excellent staff team at Tavistock Pre-school, joining this team recently is Nikki. Nikki was a hit with the children from day one! We are also very lucky to have Helena on a Monday and Tuesday, Helena is volunteering with us to gain experience of Early Years before embarking on her teaching degree! A further very important addition to the team is Christine, our new book-keeper and admin assistant who is extremely valuable to us! Alison, our previous book-keeper, has left us to concentrate on her move to Dubai, may we wish her and her family the best of luck for the future.

NOW TAKING TWO YEAR OLDS!

As those of you with us on Friday evening will have heard, after half-term we are opening up to children of 2yrs - 5 yrs (as we have always been OFSTED registered for) rather than children having to wait until 2yrs 9mths to join us. This is a major move forward as it will enable us to make full use of all the advantages available to every child when younger and older children are learning and developing together.

There has been a great response to this change and we have been inundated with calls from parents wishing their children to start with us earlier than planned. Unfortunately (though we are also extremely proud to say) all of our sessions are full to our OFSTED registered limits therefore the earlier start offer is just applicable to those children who are already booked to come to us in this academic year. These children were just waiting for the magic date when they are 2yrs 9mths between November '08 and July '08. At Easter I will be writing to all those parents who are either current or on waiting lists and we will then be able to arrange starting dates and preferred days - then of course any child who is 2yrs or above will be eligible to join us.

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EXTENDED ENTITLEMENT

Lots of you have been very keen to hear about the plans for more flexible entitlement. We are fully intending to offer more flexible day care from January as appreciate that this is what is wanted by a great number of you, however, there are a great deal of hoops to jump through to meet this aim. We do all have to also remember that as our sessions are all full there may be limited opportunities for change during this academic year (although we may be able to arrange the swapping of sessions amongst yourselves by way of us advertising wanted sessions for example). Nothing will happen without everyone knowing about it so please don't think you will miss out! Just watch this space!

SURVEY

Thank you to the majority of you who completed and returned our survey, this will enable us to look to the future and try to offer the types of services you, as the important community, are wanting for your children.

PASSWORD

The safety of your children is of paramount importance to us. We will be asking all 'main carers' for an individual password. This will be used from 3rd November '08 if anyone other than the 'main carer' is collecting a child. We will not then be using the collection book but instead have a record of the most recent password with every child's records. If any person other than the 'main carer' arrives to collect a child we will only allow the child to leave with that person if the most recent password is stated to us. This password can only be changed by the 'main carer' but can be changed as often as you feel is necessary - it is your responsibility to ensure the password is only known to those adults you are happy for us to let your child off our property with. We will not allow a child to leave Pre-school unless it is with the 'main carer' or someone who has given us the latest password we have on record for that child. In the case of an emergency then we will use emergency contact details you have provided on the registration forms.

LUNCHES

Our snack bar lunch system is working very well. The children are sitting and settling to their lunch when at the snack bar very much better than when expected to come straight in and eat. They are now able to socialise, play and release their energy before being expected to sit quietly and use their 'snack bar voices and manners' when eating their lunch! Thank you for your support in this change of practice it was most certainly a good move forward.

Please remember not to bring anything containing nuts into preschool to protect those children with allergies.

POLICIES

You will be receiving a small selection of our policies in the very near future (when our photocopier decides to play again!) please read these - they are the 'instructions' by which we work at Tavistock Pre-school and this obviously involves you as parents and carers. If you would like a copy of each one of our policies then please just let us know. Otherwise they will all be fully accessible for you to read in the office and playroom.

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PARENT TREE/PROFILES/SUGGESTION BOX

Thank you to all those parents who are making use of:

*Parent Tree

On the wall in the quiet area; please write anything which your child is interested in at the moment so we can incorporate it into their learning - eg, we had great fun dressing up and going to a wedding when we saw that one child was going to be a bridesmaid at the weekend.

*Profiles

These will be once again be on the shelves on the playroom wall after half-term when the unit is fixed! Please write any achievements on the sticky labels so that the relationship between home/school learning can be demonstrated - eg, getting dressed independently, saying the sky was blue, opening a door for mum! Please look through your child's profile and discuss with your child's key-person as often as you are able to.

*Suggestion box/bag

On the wall by play room door; obviously verbal communication with us is great but not always possible so please jot down anything which you feel we would benefit from knowing (anonymous if you prefer) - any ideas/suggestions/praise (!) etc.

NOW FOR THE BEGGING PART!

Please bring any of the following in you can spare:

- * Comics, books, posters, toys, dolls, CD's, materials etc which demonstrate different countries, language and cultures.
- * As above which demonstrate healthy living/eating (Sportacus etc)
- * Any junk modelling/home corner resources (boxes - any size, pots, packets etc). Please do not flatten if possible then we can use wherever is required most.
- * Newspaper
- * Old glasses
- * Spare clothes - boys and girls, any items greatly received!

PLEASE REMEMBER

- * Please remember to leave two spare changes of clothes (don't worry we do have spares for those forgotten times!), wellies, outdoor coat/gloves/hat. Also nappies/pull-up's/wipes if needed.
- * The last day of this half-term is Friday 24th October and we return on Monday 3rd November.
- * There is an INSET day on Thursday 6th November so Pre-school is closed to children.
- * The last day of term is Friday 19th December and we return on Monday 5th January
(We will be having a Christmas party, details to follow shortly!)

Wishing you and your families a happy half-term

From Paula and the Tavistock Team