

## Short Term Planning for April & May 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15 Start of Summer Term, EYE Funding Starts	16 Full Staff Meeting 6.15 - 7.30 pm	17	18	19 Train Trip to Teignmouth
22 Earth Day 	23 St George's Day 	24	25	26
29	30	1	2	3
6 May Day Closed	7 Estelle Annual Leave	8 Estelle & Lara Early Movement & Leap Training	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24 Early Years Funding Stops Over Half Term
27 Bank Holiday Closed	28 Dayle & Zoe Annual Leave, No Sadie	29 Dayle & Zoe Annual Leave, No Sadie	30 Dayle Annual Leave, No Sadie	31 Dayle & Zoe Annual Leave, No Sadie

As part of our ongoing working in Partnership with Parents. Parents can help us by regularly completing the "My Favourite Things In.... Have Been" pages and Parent Quick Note sections, remember the info which you supply helps us to specifically gear our plans towards the current interests and developmental needs of your own child. Please remember to read your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet each day and **initial and date at the top** so that we know you have done so. Any comments should be written in the Parent Quick Note sections please. Our focus over the next few weeks will be **Fairytales**. We have planned a whole host of activities for the children all of which will nicely link into all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage for the first half of the Summer Term. Please note when your child's Keyworker is on Annual Leave or attending Training, this will mean that their 'buddy' will be completing your child's pages if they are away, see page seven for more details.



# Grafton Childcare

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### Teignmouth Train Trip, Friday 19th April

Friday 19th April will see the end of our recent Transport Topic with our 2nd attempt to take all of the 2, 3 and 4 years olds to Teignmouth on the train on a little adventure. Our plan is to catch the 9.39 from Newton Abbot which arrives in Teignmouth at 9.45. We shall be leaving Grafton promptly at 9.10 am to walk down to the station and get ourselves safely onto the correct platform ready for the arrival of our train. We shall be completing one of our outing permission slips in the front of your child's Daily Dairy or Communication Booklet for you to sign if you are happy for your child to take part in our little adventure. If your child normally attends on a Friday but does not normally arrive until after 9.10am could we please ask that on Friday 19th April that they arrive by 9.10 am at the latest thank you, you will not be charged any additional childcare fees for this. Sadly we won't be able to wait for any stragglers as we don't want to miss our train we are sure you understand! If your child does not normally come to Grafton on a Friday and they would like to come with us to Teignmouth, they are very welcome to do so, **however** Mummy, Daddy or a Carer **must** come along as well and be responsible for them during our trip, so that we can maintain the correct ratios during the trip. Tickets for adults will cost £3.10. If you would like to come please let Denise know by Wednesday 17th April so that she can book any extra train tickets. Our day is very loosely planned really depending on the weather and how the children are enjoying themselves, we really will be led by the children on the day. We hope if

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things are going well to eat a packed lunch in Teignmouth and head back home to catch either the 13.14, 13.29 or maybe even the 14.32 trains and should all be safely back at Grafton by 3 pm at the latest.

We ask that on that day that your child comes in something warm with a waterproof coat and wearing their welly boots if they don't already have some here at Grafton, with a set of spare clothes and Calpol in their bags.

## Fairytales - The Three Little Pigs

Monday will see the start of our Summer Term and the end of our Transport Topic, which all of the children have absolutely loved. Can we say a huge thank you to the children, parents and staff who all brought in some wonderful resources for the children to use in our Railway Station helping us to really focus on the children's interest and develop this topic over the past half-term, it's been great fun.

Over the last couple of weeks we have noticed many of the children making a beeline for our Fairytale Stories on our bookcases and some of our small world play fairytales pieces. They have developed this further outside in their games and role-play, so we have planned our next topic around some of the most popular fairytales and will start by creating The Three Little Pigs Houses in our role-play area.

Our next staff meeting will be on Tuesday 16th April when we will discuss all of our key children's "My Favourite Things In... Have Been" pages and Parent Quick Note sections, taken from their Daily Diaries and Communication Booklets and use this information to help us to add to our planning towards the current interests and developmental needs of the children until May half term. So if you have not yet completed your child's pages for March it really is not to late, thank you.

If you have any resources or books about The Three Little Pigs, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Jack and The Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man or Little Red Riding Hood etc, which are not too precious and you would be happy for the children to use here at Grafton for a few weeks, we would be very happy to have a loan. However please don't send anything in which you would be sad if it were accidently damaged. We shall be avoiding stories such as Sleeping Beauty or Cinderella on this occasion but might cover them later in the year if we have enough interest for them.



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informative newsletters provide parents with information about the EYFS, their children's progress and ideas to further support their children's learning at home."

At the end of our inspection we were given just two recommendations to help us improve our early years provision:-

- ☺ To introduce a 'buddy' system to further support children's sense of security, when a child's key worker is not present.

At the moment each child has either one or two formal key workers, we intend to formally give each Key Worker a 'buddy' who will become your child's key worker on most occasions if your child's Key Worker is on leave, training or absent.

Below we have listed each Key Worker and beside it the name of that staff member's 'buddy'

### Key Worker

Sadie  
Dayle  
Lara  
Angela  
Estelle  
Jade  
Julie  
Zoe

### Buddy

Denise  
Denise  
Angela  
Lara  
Jade  
Estelle  
Zoe  
Julie

Our other recommendation to help us improve our early years provision was:-

- ☺ To give children regular opportunities to use mathematical language.

The inspector noted that sometimes some staff missed chances to extend children's understanding of number further or consolidate their learning because they sometimes did not challenge children further through simple addition and subtraction.

We intend to do this by focusing a little more with our mathematically able children not just on numeracy but also problem solving and reasoning, with the use of our many Orchard Toys table top games and our Number Puppies story sack which many of the children particularly enjoy.



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- ☺ "Staff have a good understanding of child development and support children effectively to become creative and critical thinkers."
- ☺ "Children's communication and language skills are well promoted."
- ☺ "Children choose from a variety of easily accessible resources and freely change and adapt these taking charge of their own learning."
- ☺ "Resources include a good range of books and toys, which reflect positive images of diversity. This means that children learn about the wider world through their play."
- ☺ "Staff make regular observation of the children engaging in activities. They use these observation to effectively identify the next steps in children's learning and plan a stimulating, purposeful and balanced educational programme. Children have many opportunities to develop the skills that will support them as they move through the setting and onto school."
- ☺ "Babies enjoy a spacious, warm and welcoming environment to move around, explore in safety and have daily access to the outdoor play area."
- ☺ "Babies and younger children have lots of warm interaction and eye contact with staff, who respond to their gurgles and early attempts to form words."
- ☺ "Staff encourage children to count the number of times they jump, which helps children count in sequence. However, staff sometimes miss chances to extend children's understanding of number further or consolidate their learning. For example when children count objects with ease, staff do not challenge children further through simple addition and subtraction."
- ☺ "There is an effective key person system, which helps children to feel secure and confident. However, there is currently no 'buddy' system in place to ensure they have a special adult around if their key person is not present, to further support children's sense of security."
- ☺ "Staff show a good understanding of the setting's strengths as well as areas for further development and are keen to make sure the provision continually improves."
- ☺ "Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents are fully involved with all aspects of their child's learning and care. Extremely

## Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are still collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids until the 22nd May 2013 and so far have collected 1,495. Last year we collected just over 2,500 vouchers which meant we were able to redeem them for an amazing array of equipment and toys for the children to use here. This year we are aiming for two space hoppers and some sensory equipment for the under twos to explore with.



Any Sainsbury's vouchers you are able to collect would be very much appreciated. Please send them in to us in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet folder and we shall whisk them away. If you could also ask your family, friends and work colleagues if they would feel able to collect for us if they are not already collecting for another school or nursery, we would be very grateful as would the children. The Tesco's Vouchers Scheme is starting later on in the year.

## Mum's Fundraising Tribute to Georgia

One of our parent's Laura Bailey mummy to Emily six and Jack three who attends Grafton three days a week is holding a fundraiser in memory of her baby daughter Georgia.

Laura is raising cash for the special care baby unit to mark what would of been Georgia's 10th birthday. She was born prematurely weighing, just 2lbs 2oz, with complications including Edwards syndrome. Georgia was given palliative care and lived for just three and a half days.

Now Laura wants to mark the birthday with a fundraiser being held on April 21 at The Rec, Marsh Road, Newton Abbot, from 1 pm to 5pm. There will be live music, entertainment and events including as inflatable assault course and bouncy castle. Laura would like to raise as much money as she can for the unit.

"They were so kind, caring, patient and compassionate towards me and my family while we were there and I wanted to give something back. From Georgia's birth to when she passed away she was cared for by the wonderful dedicated nurses and doctors on the unit who treated her with as much love and care as they would their own children."

The fundraising will culminate in a sky dive on December 29 - the day before what would of been Georgia's 10th birthday. Laura said: "I wanted to celebrate her tenth as I think its a really big, important birthday."

Here at Grafton we would like to make a little collection to pass onto Laura at the end of the month. If you feel you might like to support her amazing efforts to raise funds for the Torbay Hospital's Special Baby Unit, please pop your donation in a sealed envelope marked "For Georgia" and we will pass them all on to Laura on Monday 29th April.

# FUNDRAISING FOR RED NOSE DAY

Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales), SC039730 (Scotland)



## Thank You

For helping us to raise £60.80 for Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March

## Staff Update

As you are aware Klaudia Fronczak has been unwell since early February she has sadly now resigned because of her ongoing ill health, we all wish her a very speedy recovery. Angela Evely has now taken over all of Klaudia's Key Children.

## Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parent's of the following children and staff:- Joshua, Steve, Charlie, Sophie, Jasmine, Charlotte, Jacob, Lewis, William and Warren, who have donated Train Tickets and Books, Dressing Up Outfits, Tissue Paper, Baby Toys, A Giant Sit on Snail, carrier bags (we have enough carrier bags now thank you) and junk modelling items.

## New Toys & Resources

Since our last newsletter we have been busy adding new equipment and resources for the children to use here at Grafton, just this week we have taken delivery of some new mirrors to put up in the children's toilet which remind the children to wash their hands, four 35 litre flexible purple tubtrugs complete with covers for the children to use for their small world play and craft activities and probably as small paddling pools in the warmer weather when it eventually arrives. We have also purchased some new sturdy steel tube constructed dolls pushchairs for the children to use when roleplaying, they have already proved to be a big hit. We have found a lovely lady in Buckfastleigh who has knitted us some new currant buns for our Rhyme Time Bags as well as some amazing cakes and buns for our role-play corner. Last but by no means least we purchased some new funky fruity table covers for the children's tables to use during snack and meal times.



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## Grafton Childcare's Ofsted Inspection

Inspections of registered early years providers are scheduled at least once in every inspection cycle - the current cycle started on the 1st September 2012 and ends on the 31st July 2016. As many of our parents are aware Grafton Childcare holds two registrations with Ofsted one as Childcare on Domestic Premises when we have four or more members of staff on the premises who work directly with the children, i.e. not our Cook, Cleaner and Secretary but our Manager (Denise Tupman) our two Senior Nursery Nurses and our eight Nursery Nurses. Our most recent unannounced Ofsted Inspection as thus was on Wednesday 27th March 2013 and our report can be downloaded from our website. [http://www.graftonchildcare.co.uk/?page\\_id=44](http://www.graftonchildcare.co.uk/?page_id=44) look on the left hand side of the homepage and scroll halfway down to the tab marked Ofsted, here you can find links to download pdf files of all of our most recent Ofsted inspections since 2005! If you would prefer to have a printed copy please email us and we will arrange to have a copy popped into your child's bag. Our most recent Ofsted Inspection for Childminding was on 17th September 2009 and the report can be downloaded from our website. We are expecting another Ofsted Inspection in the current inspection cycle which ends on the 31st July 2016 and will inform parents of the outcome in due course!

We explained in previous newsletters about the changes which came in with the implementation of the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage which came into effect on the 1st September 2012, along with the many changes came new style lighter touch shorter **unannounced** Ofsted Inspections. This also means shorter less detailed inspection reports which is a little shame but if the inspector is on the premises for less time then they are going to observe less.

At the end of the inspection the inspector will make a judgement when the setting is given a grade between 1 - 4. Four is the lowest at Inadequate and 1 is the highest at Outstanding. We are delighted to let parents know that on this occasion we were graded as 2 or Good which means we are effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning, when they leave us to start school.

Below are a few snippets which we have taken from our report, however please do take the time to read our whole report if you can so that you can read them in context:-

- ☺ "Children are happy and well motivated to learn. They engage in a wide range of activities which interest and excite them; consequently, they make good progress in all areas of learning."
- ☺ "Children have warm and trusting relationships with the manager and her staff and behave in ways that show they feel safe."

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