

Short Term Planning for December 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Staff Planning Meeting 4.30-6	2	3 Make Marble Firework & Diwali Pictures	4 Emily T & Dayle on Communication Training	5 Make Marble Firework & Diwali Pictures
8 Emily P Annual Leave	9 Emily P Annual Leave	10 Emily P Annual Leave	11 Emily P Annual Leave	12 Emily P Annual Leave
15 Create Spotty Paper Plate Bags.	16 Bake Children in Need Cookies	17 Bake Children in Need Cookies Healthy Settings	18 Bake Children in Need Cookies	19 Children in Need, Wear something Spotty
22 Road Safety Week Create a Display	23 Create a Road Safety Display	24 Create a Road Safety Display	25 Thanks Giving Day, Create a Thanks Giving Turkeys	26 Create a Road Safety Display
29 Holiday Fun For Grafton Bear.	30 Water Safety	1 Autumn Festival Crafts	2 Hanukkah, Festival of Lights	3 Advent Crafts
6 Staff Planning Meeting 4.30-6	7 Autumn Festival Crafts	8 Autumn Festival Crafts	9 Autumn Festival Crafts	10 Autumn Festival Crafts
13 Christmas & Solstice Activities & Crafts	14 Christmas & Solstice Activities & Crafts	15 Christmas & Solstice Activities & Crafts	16 Christmas & Solstice Activities & Crafts	17 End of Term for Early Years Entitlement Funded Children
20	21 Winter Solstice Christmas Roast Dinner	22	23 Creating Ginger Bread Houses	24 Closed for Christmas Reopen on 4th January

We are sharing our Short Term Planning sheet for your info, 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 Childcare Report page 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 at the front of the Diaries. Our focus over the next few weeks will be Christmas, Snow, . We have planned a whole host of activities for the children including just a few of the following items listed. All of which will nicely link into Problem Solving Reasoning & Numeracy & Creative Development which will be our Developmental Matters, Skills & Processes focus for the remainder of the Autumn Term. Watch out for those codes! Please note when your child's Keyworker is on Annual Leave or attending Training, this will mean that another member of staff will be completing your child's pages whilst they are away.



Grafton Childcare

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Clothing and Belongings

Dec 2010

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With the weather getting colder we thought now would be a good time to remind all our parents of our Clothing and Belongings Policy as many of the children have been arriving totally inappropriately dressed for the weather!

Children should arrive dressed for play. We like to have fun! Having fun involves lots of outdoor play and lots of messy activities, so make sure that your child is dressed appropriately. Please don't dress your child in their best clothing or expect them to be spotless when you arrive to pick them up, if we are going on an outing somewhere that requires your child to be dressed in something other than play clothes we shall inform you in advance so that you have the option to include another outfit for such a purpose. Clothing should be comfortable and seasonally appropriate for daily outdoor play.

Make sure you include warm labelled hats, mittens, boots and coats for cold weather. Please do not send you child with shoes with laces or buckles, unless they are able to fasten them themselves. The children take their shoes off and on frequently during the day when going from inside to outside. So they need to be able to tie the shoelaces themselves or wear shoes with Velcro fastenings.

Please remember that we need one pair of slippers, wellington boots, lightweight raincoat (pack-a-mac style) and sun hat left here at Grafton Childcare at all times, labelled clearly with your child's name. Have you checked your child's feet recently, do you think we might need new welly boots and or slippers.



Clothing and Belongings

We prefer that children do not bring toys from home little ones can have a difficult time sharing with others, and it is even harder with their own special toys. If toys are brought please note that they will be left in their bag until it is time to leave, if they are the cause of disagreements among the children. Exceptions to this policy will be that a child may bring a favourite sleepy toy or comforter for naptime only, and toys may be brought for show and tell activities. We are not responsible for any loss or breakage of personal items including clothing, toys and jewellery. All personal items should be clearly marked with the child's name we highly recommend the Sharpie Laundry Marker Pens they are fantastic for this purpose. We cannot be responsible for lost items of clothing or footwear, especially those which are not labelled, sorry.

Lastly please remember that we use our own washable nappies and to allow for this when dressing your child, trousers and leggings which are tight or snug over your disposable nappies, will not fit over our washable nappies. We would prefer that once your child is being potty/toilet trained that you do not send them in dungarees or trousers with buttons and belts, as they are too difficult for your child to undo unaided. If your child is in the early stages of potty training then we must have at least 3 pairs of trousers, socks and pants, so that we are able to swiftly change your child should they have a mishap.

Please could you ensure that **ONLY** the following labelled items are kept in your child's bag. Sharpie Laundry Pens from WHSmiths are ideal for labelling things and much quicker than sewing on labels:-

- 1) Your child's Daily Diary in it's very own zipped wallet with which you will be provided.
- 2) At least one complete change of clothes for your child, suitable for the current weather conditions. This might include extra layers in the Winter months, and t-shirts and shorts in the Summer. If your child is toilet training then we will need **AT LEAST** three pairs of trouser/leggings, pants/knickers and socks please.
- 3) Three disposable nappies, should your child arrive in a soiled nappy, or soil their nappy just before they leave. During the day we will use our own washable nappies and wipes on your child.
- 4) Bepanthen and or Metanium Nappy Care Ointment, remember we may only use ointments supplied by yourself.
- 5) A small plastic bag in which to place any soiled or wet clothing for you to take home and wash.

Updated Parking Arrangements For Grafton Childcare

Road, avoiding the disabled bay!

Before 9.30am and **after** 4.00 pm ensure that at all times you park in either of our two designated areas pictured above and do not block access to other users. Please do not leave your engine running whilst dropping off your children. Not only is this illegal it is also not very considerate towards our neighbours. Or you can if you wish park in Mount Pleasant Road. But **please** do not park your vehicle at any time on the Double Yellow Lines outside the front of our property for any reason or in the disabled bay on the corner of Mount Pleasant Roads, because you might get a parking ticket! Three people were ticketed in October!

Once you have parked your vehicles, you can when the rear gates are open walk down our rear slope and ring the doorbell on the Conservatory door and a member of staff will assist you in signing your child in or out. Remember to ring the bell, we have had a couple of parents who have just knocked on the glass door and been stood there for a few minutes as we have not heard them! We are very happy to store your Pushchairs and Buggies if needed.

Remember when the rear gates are closed (between 9.30 am - 4.00 pm) then once you have parked at the rear of number 22 Torquay Road please walk around and collect your children from our front door.

We would appreciate it if **all** parents could please cooperate fully with this new parking scheme whilst we are seeking planning permission for our change of use thank you. Please don't be offended if you come to the front door before 9.30 am and after 4pm and we ask you to walk around to the back door. This is for the safety of your child and all the children attending so that we can concentrate on whose is leaving and arriving from one exit and not two.



Seeking Planning Permission for a Change of Use.

In November's Newsletter we mentioned that we would be reapplying for planning permission following our previous applications refusal back in September. Our new application has now been submitted and many of you have given us written letters of support for which we thank you very much.

But we still need more short letters from each of you simply stating that you support our application for a change of use. It does not need to be very long, but needs to include your name and address and possibly state how you travel to and from Grafton Childcare e.g. On foot and if via car that you make it very clear that you park off road on Grafton's own off-road parking area.

We would appreciate as many letters of support by Monday 20th December as these will all be hand delivered to Teignbridge Planning Department before we close for Christmas. It really is very important that we gain as many letters of support as possible because we have had a strong letter of objection from Devon Highways Department despite the fact that we have taken Teignbridge's advice and have now moved from parents parking their cars at the front of Grafton Childcare on Torquay Road to now parking at the rear of Grafton Childcare in our designated parking spaces. So please could we have as many letters of support by Monday 20th December or you can do it online at <http://213.152.63.161/publicaccess/> then click on Planning in the middle of the screen and then Application Search to the left of the screen enter our reference which is 10/03744/COU, then our application will show, click to view and then at the top of the screen click on Submit Comments. See clear as mud!

Updated Parking Arrangements For Grafton Childcare

As all parents are now aware, we hope! Our new parking arrangements came into force on the 11th October and seem to be working very well all be it with a few minor hiccups and a little bit of fine turning.

So as a little reminder they are now as follows:-

ALL Parents & Carers who arrive to either drop off or collect from Grafton Childcare could you please walk/drive to the **rear** of Grafton Childcare via Northernhay, the small access road at the rear of our setting.

However between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm each day, our rear gates will be kept locked so that the children can play outside in safety. During these times, you may park in the parking area belonging to number 22 Torquay Road (see the picture on the right above), or in any spaces which you may find in Mount Pleasant

- 6) Suncream if you do not wish us to use Grafton Childcare's suncream on your child.
- 7) Coat, in Summer months a lightweight pack-a-mac style and in Winter a thicker warmer waterproof style, remember we do go out in ALL weather conditions even rain and snow!
- 8) 2-5 sachets of Calpol/Infant Suspension with your child's name written on them kept inside the zipped wallet please, remember we may only give your child Calpol if it has been supplied by yourself.
- 9) Please do not keep any coins, jewellery, small toys unsuitable for under 3's and adult medications, cigarettes and or matches in your child's bag as these pose a real safety concern for us here at Grafton Childcare.

Your full cooperation will be hugely appreciated, thank you.

Children In Need



Can we thank each and every parent for supporting us all to raise an amazing £65 for this years Children In Need Appeal. The children really enjoyed making their Pudsey Bear Cookies and from feedback we have received it sounds like you all enjoyed eating them.



Please note that Grafton Childcare will be closed from 7pm on Thursday 23rd December and reopens on Tuesday 4th January at 7am. All fees for December should be paid by the 23rd.

Wrap Around Childcare

We would like to say a fond farewell to Lewis and Daisy R. who will both be leaving us at Christmas to start at their new schools in January. We just can't believe that the last four years have flown by so fast, they have both been a pleasure to care for during their time with us and we hope that they settle quickly into life at Big School!

Lewis will not be leaving us totally as he will be joining the Reception Class at Decoy Primary School along with another little chap Warren, who Denise will be dropping off and collecting from school most days.

Some of you might be aware that Decoy Primary School will be opening their own Breakfast and After School Provision from January and we are sad to report that Rowena, Robert and Callum will be joining the club from January. The school have been proposing opening this club for a couple of years but previously decided not to do so since the school was well served by 13 local Registered Childminders, Denise included.

Sadly the new head has decided that there is a need and has rebuked the approaches of the local childminders to work in partnership and gone ahead and opened the club. Not surprisingly many of these childminders are upset to now find themselves being given notice by their parents, in favour of the cheaper provision which will be provided at the school.

However at what cost we wonder, the school have been given a short term start up grant to help with set up and initial staff costs, which is why the fees of £3 per hour are so cheap, nor do they include cooked evening meals, but will this be sustainable once the grants run out? Especially in this current economic climate! Decoy's adult to child ratios which will be between 1:8 and 1:10 dependant on staffing on any particular day. Registered Childminders usually work to a ratio of 1:6 for school aged children, here at Grafton Childcare we work to a ratio of only **1:4**, which we believe offers **real quality childcare**.

We can guarantee that Grafton Childcare will continue to provide wrap-around childcare until July 2011 as long as we are contracted to drop off or collect at least two children each day. We will review the situation in August to see how many children wish to continue to use our service for September 2011, before we decide if it continues to be financially viable for us to do so, we will keep you all posted.



Donations of Resources

Donations of toys and resources help us keep our costs down, so if you have any of the following items on hand and are willing to donate them, it would be greatly appreciated.



- Dressing up clothing child sized not old adult clothing, costumes, hats etc.
- Magazines that depict other cultures, old birthday cards etc.
- Paper of any kind, brown, white, coloured, waxed, foil, Christmas colours would be very useful this month, etc.
- Crayons, water colour paints, or any misc. art supplies, such as fabric scraps, glitter, pipe cleaners, paper plates, etc.
- Any odd shaped boxes or packages, especially if you can get a dozen or so of the same size and shape, maybe from your place of work, we are very happy to help you recycle, these come in very handy for our junk modelling.
- Used padded envelopes, any size or amount.
- Anything that you think we might find useful for arts and crafts, just ask if your not sure.

During this Christmas time and just after when making room for all of your new gifts, please think of us before throwing out all that ribbon that wrapped up those parcels. We would love to have all of those fancy bags which your gifts came in, not only can we make use of the fancy paper but also the cord handles.

It is because of these generous donations that the children are able to create such wonderful masterpieces to be taken home and admired by one and all.