

Short Term Planning for January/February 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 Headcount Week for Funded Children. Staff Planning Meeting & Risk Assessment Training 5-8 pm	18	19 Dayle & Denise on How to get the most out of story time training	20 Adele & Emily on How to get the most out of story time training	21
24 Weekly Focus on Australia	25	26 Australia Day	27	28
31 Chinese New Year Crafts Staff Meeting 5 - 6 All Staff	1 Chinese New Years Crafts	2 Chinese New Year, Year of the Rabbit. Cooking	3	4 Grafton Closed for Staff Training On Letters & Sounds
7 Kayleigh & Julie on Safeguarding Children Awareness	8 Nirvana Day Buddhist Festival	9 Valentines Crafts	10 Valentines Crafts	11 Valentines Crafts
14 Valentines Day	15 Focus on Africa	16 Kayleigh & Julie on Food Safety Awareness	17	18
21 Weekly Focus on Africa	22	23	24	25
28 Fairtrade Fortnight (28-13)				

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 Africa, Australia, China, Means of Travel. 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 Knowledge & Understanding of the World & Physical Development which will be our Developmental Matters, Skills & Processes focus for the start of the Spring 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

January/February 2011

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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 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 waterproof 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.



Please note that Grafton Childcare will be **CLOSED** for one day on Friday 4th February so that all staff can attend "Letters & Sounds" training. But we will still be able to drop off and collect from Decoy Primary on that day.



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 if they are the cause of disagreements among the children that they will be left in their bag until it is time to leave. 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.

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 page 7), or in any spaces which you may find in Mount Pleasant Road, avoiding the disabled bay!

Before 9.30am and **after** 4.00 pm ensure that at all times you park in our two designated areas pictured below on the Blue Tarmac 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 (you may only park here between 9.30 am - 4pm) 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.





Gastroenteritis

As you all will have been aware we have had a very nasty Gastroenteritis bug doing the rounds of both staff and children at Grafton Childcare since we reopened after our Christmas break.

Due to Ofsted & HPA regulations we are not permitted to provide childcare for babies and children who are unwell, because we are required to not only think

of the Health & Safety of your child but all other children within our care. If your child should become unwell whilst in our care i.e. vomiting and or diarrhoea then you will be contacted to arrange a speedy collection of your child Any child who has presented with the symptoms of vomiting & diarrhoea will not be readmitted on the premises for a minimum of 48 hours and full childcare fees will still be payable for your child's place in their absence. If your child has had Gastroenteritis, they may not return until their stools have return to normal, this might be longer than 48 hours with some children. Your child will still be highly infectious until they do so. If you are ever in any doubt about whether or not we can care for your child because you think he/she might be unwell. Then please telephone us beforehand explaining their symptoms please don't turn up with a potentially infectious child and expect us to make a snap decision on the doorstep. Every parents full and continued cooperation is needed please.

Updated Parking Arrangements For Grafton Childcare

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. We have the backing of Newton Abbot Town Council as well as two local councillors so are hopeful that this time it will be approved.

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 tuning.

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

- 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** for one day on Friday 4th February so that all staff can attend "Letters & Sounds" training, we will however still be able to drop off and collect from Decoy Primary on that day.

Wrap Around Childcare

We would like to say a fond farewell to Lewis and Daisy R. who both left 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 has 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, Red & Spring 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 your post Christmas Spring Cleans 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.

Could we say a huge thank you to those parents who have provided us with resources and bits and pieces during the last few months, it really is hugely appreciated thank you. Any items which we think we might not use we either recycle via Teignbridge Freegle or pop down to the Devon Air Ambulance shop, so nothing ever gets wasted here. You can find more info about Freegle here

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Teignbridge-Freegle/>