

Short Term Planning for May 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 May Day Bank Holiday Closed	3 Sun Awareness Week	4 Sun ready for action, Cool hats for hot heads <i>SENCO Training, Emily</i>	5 Shade & Shelter The sun has got his hat Mark Making Training, Denise	6 Avoid the hot spots, Invent a sun song! & Slap on the sun block. Trips to Courtenay Park
9 Stay Safe in the Sun, Physical Development, <i>Intimate Care Training Emily & Dayle</i>	10 Stay Safe in the Sun, PSRN,	11 <i>Stay Safe in the Sun, CLL, Creating our Park Display, Courtenay Pond, CD Effective EYFS Training, Emily</i>	12 Stay Safe in the Sun, CD, Creating our Park Display, 5 Little Ducks and 5 Speckled Frogs, PSRN	13 Stay Safe in the Sun, PSED, Creating our Park Display, Mary Mary Quite Contrary, CLL
16 Get Walking Day (15th) www.getwalking.org Walk to Courtenay Park, PD A walk in the park, PSED,	17 Creating our Park Display, Recreate the Play Park, PSED (Julie)	18 British Sandwich Week (16-21) Lets make sandwiches for Tea!	19 Roleplaying BBQ's, CLL . A walk in the park, CLL <i>Policies & Pathways Training Emily</i>	20 Creating BBQ Foods from playdough, KUW
23 A walk in the park, PSRN	24 <i>A walk in the park, CD</i>	25 <i>A walk in the park, KUW Effective EYFS Training Emily Dayle Annual Leave</i>	26 A walk in the park, PD <i>Dayle Annual Leave</i>	27 Roleplaying BBQ's, Convert the conservatory KUW <i>Dayle Annual Leave</i>
30 Closed Spring Bank Holiday	31 No plans for today yet! <i>Dayle & Julie Annual Leave</i>	1 No plans for today yet! <i>Dayle & Julie Annual Leave</i>	2 No plans for today yet! <i>Dayle & Julie Annual Leave</i>	3 Monday 6th June Staff Planning Meeting 6-7 pm please complete your child's my favourite things page for May by today, thank you. <i>Dayle & Julie Annual Leave</i>

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 Sun Awareness, Healthy Exercise Outside & Sandwich Making. 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 this half of the Summer 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

Denise Tupman, Ofsted Registered Childcare, Est. 1991
24 Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1AJ.
Tel: 01626 355066, Email: grafftonchildcare@btinternet.com

Our New Website is Live!

May 2011

At last after a break of almost two years, we have a new website up and running. If you get a spare few minutes perhaps you might like to take a peek and see what you think.

Inside this issue:

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Photos

www.grafftonchildcare.co.uk

Tamdesign.co.uk have designed the shell of the website and we are now able to edit and upload bits and bobs ourselves, which we shall continue to do over the next few months.

This & That 3
Sainsbury's & Tesco Vouchers 3

We have lots of plans for the website to make it a 1st port of call for existing parents and those looking for quality childcare seeking more detailed information about what we get up to here at Grafton on a daily basis.

Our Short Term 4
Planning for
May

We are hoping to upload lots of photos on an ongoing basis of the children enjoying the many varied activities, topics and free-play which we all enjoy so much here.

We have uploaded our 48 page Parents' Handbook so that parents are able to dip in and out of it when they might need information on a particular policy or plan we might have. Since we are constantly updating and tweaking both our Parents' and Staff Handbooks it is more cost effective to upload them to our website for you all to access when it suits you.

Check out our new Intimate Care Policy on page 34 and our new Environmental Policy on page 43 for starters!

We notice that some parents have copies of our old Parent Handbooks in their bags which do look very dog eared, so you might like to throw those away now as many of the policies in them have now been updated to take on board changes to current legislation and changes we have made since staff have attended training.

Please note that Grafton Childcare will be **CLOSED** on Monday 30th May and full fees will be due whilst closed as per the terms of your contracts.



Royal Wedding & Castles & Fairies

As you can see from the photos below our focus last month on the Royal Wedding, Castles and Fairies was a huge success which we topped off with a Royal Tea Party on Thursday 28th April. It was lovely to see the children and staff wearing all of their very best "Royal Wedding" outfits. It was pretty amazing to see just how much party food the children were able to consume, with no sandwiches and savoury foods left but quite a lot of trifle!

Could we say a huge thank you to those parents who sent in crafty bits which we used for our crowns, as well as books, CD's, and magazines, which were linked to our topic and we were able to share with the children during our circle time sessions and then return safely home. It really is fantastic that you feel able to work in partnership with us, it is also really important for the children that they can see that you value and support what the children are learning here.



This & That

We are very pleased that so many parents emailed us last month to be added to our database for the sending out of our notes, newsletters and invoices via email. If you have not as yet given us an email address for this purpose, please could you send Denise a quick email to denise.tupman@inbox.com and she will add you to our database. We have now started our Summer Term and last month emailed our Early Years Term Dates Calendar for 2011-12 to all parents, if you did not get one this can also be downloaded from our website.

With the change over this September to all schools in Devon having a one point entry instead of two in September and January, this means that we have a larger than normal number of children starting school in September this year and freeing up childcare spaces for under fives.

Remember we also provide flexible wrap-around childcare for 5,6,7 & 8 year olds and if you would like to discuss our flexible arrangements for this you can email Denise or look on our website for more details.

If you have any friends or family who might be looking for childcare from the 25th July onwards, please put in a good word for us. Remember we operate our reward scheme where parents can receive up to £50 in M&S Vouchers if their friend enrolls here at Grafton Childcare. As I'm sure you all know recommendation is always the best form of advertising.

Sadly due to our potential lower numbers from September and rising running costs here at Grafton Childcare (Teignbridge are now charging us both Council Tax & Business Rates and Employer National Insurance Contributions increased by 1% in April), we have had to make Rose redundant, which we were very sad to do, but expect that lots of settings in Newton Abbot will find themselves in very similar positions over the next few months. However Chris Tupman is now helping out more often to cover annual leave and when staff are on training, to make sure that we have adequate staff here at all times. It is also great to have two male members of staff here, which is a real rarity in the Early Years Workforce, also not forgetting Phil our cook!

Sainsbury's & Tesco's Vouchers

Our collections of Sainsbury's and Tesco's Vouchers are ongoing and to date we have collected 1,509 Tesco Vouchers and 1,893 Sainsbury's Vouchers, so thank you very much. The Tesco scheme has now finished and we shall be sending off our order soon, please remind your family, friends, neighbours and the lady next to you in the shopping queue to save their vouchers for us, because every one really does count.