


Short Term Planning for November & December 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 Jolly Christmas Postman Topic	27	28	29 Denise on Level 4 Leadership & Management Course in Exeter	30 Denise on Level 4 Leadership & Management Course in Exeter
3 Santa's Workshop Topic Staff Meeting 6.15-7.30	4 	5 Sadie, Estelle & Denise Language Development Meeting at Canada Hill 7pm	6	7 Estelle at Early Years Conference Dawlish
10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
17 Lara A/L	18 Lara A/L	19 Children's Christmas Party	20 (21st) Winter Solstice Jade A/L	21 Jade A/L Grafton Closes at 7pm Staff Dinner 8.15 pm
24 Grafton is Closed	25 	26 	27 Grafton is Closed	28 Grafton is Closed
31 Grafton is Closed	1 	2 Grafton Reopens 7am	3	4 Early Years Entitlement Funding Resumes

Christmas Closure 2012/13

Please note that this year we shall close on Friday 21st December at 7 pm and reopen after Christmas and the New Year Holidays on Wednesday 2nd January at 7 am.

During the past couple of weeks Newton Abbot seems to have been hit by lots of Coughs and Sneezels, we are constantly reminding the children to catch that cough and cover that sneeze. Along with these coughs and sneezels many of the children have had raised temperatures, we are always very happy to dispense Calpol etc. For which we have your ongoing permission to help bring your child's temperature down. However could we again gently remind parents that if there is none in your child's bag and your child develops a fever then we will telephone you to collect your child a.s.a.p. We are always very happy to dispense Antibiotics and Cough Syrups etc, but **ONLY** if you have fully completed one of the Medication Forms to be found in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet.



Grafton Childcare

Denise Tupman, Ofsted Registered Childcare, Est. 1991
24 Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1AJ.

Tel: 01626 355066, Email: graftonchildcare@btinternet.com

School Admissions for 2013/14

Devon's application facility for Primary School places in September 2013 is now open and will close at midnight on 15th January 2013. Children born between **1/9/2008** and **31/8/2009** will require Primary School places from September 2013, although parents may defer entry, they must apply by 15th January 2013 to be considered for a place. Start dates can be discussed with Schools once offers have been made. Late applications will not be considered above timely ones where schools are oversubscribed. **Please apply on time!** Details of the school offered will be sent by email on the morning of 19th April, 2013, followed by a hard copy letter, sent 2nd class post.

Devon are striving to reduce the number of late applications and the consequent distress to parents and children when they aren't offered their local school, or the school their siblings already attend.

Attendance at a Nursery or Pre-school linked to a school, offers no priority or special consideration **if the application is late.** Please complete your child's online application at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline before the 15th January 2013.

At the present time Grafton Childcare is providing Wrap-around Childcare for Children who attend Decoy Primary School, we "might" consider dropping off or collecting children from All Saints Marsh or Bearnes next year but only if we have a minimum of two children from either school to make it financially viable for us to do so.

If you have any questions about the application process please ask Denise who will hopefully be able to help you or know a man who can!

Nov-Dec 2012	
Understanding the World & the Revised EYFS	2
Show Your Spots & KindyRock	7
Topics for November & December	8
Thanks You & Donations	9
New Toys & Resources	10



Understanding the World

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that we must meet to ensure that children develop and learn well and are kept healthy and safe. The skills, abilities and knowledge that a child is likely to learn in the vital early years, between birth and age five, are divided into seven areas of Learning and Development in the revised EYFS: three Prime and four Specific.

The Prime areas are:

- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and
- Communication and Language.

The Specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World, and
- Expressive Arts and Design.

All the areas are important and interconnected. However, the Prime areas are seen as fundamental in the earliest years from birth to three, as they support all of the children's development and later learning. Without enough of the right kinds of experiences in the Prime areas, children may struggle with their learning, find it difficult to communicate well and their confidence and emotional resilience may be affected.

Importantly, the revised EYFS recognises that children learn through:

- playing
- exploring
- being active
- creating, and
- thinking critically

It acknowledges too that children develop at their own rate and in their own ways, so 'stages of development' have no fixed age boundaries.

Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will notice that your child, like most children, is almost always curious and interested in everything going on around them. This natural curiosity helps children to learn from every experience that they have, whether they are riding on a bus, jumping on the bed or playing at Decoy Park.

You might think that there isn't much to learn from these things, yet it is just these sorts of experiences that help your child to find out what things are, how they work and what they do. In the revised Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, many of these everyday explorations come under 'Understanding the World'.

New Toys & Resources

provides security for the little ones. The smooth curved beech shapes makes cleaning a doddle, included is a mattress which is perfectly shaped to fit and they even sell fitted sheets which hug the mattress to perfection. The Dream Coracle has been tested and meets all applicable safety standards, but then I would expect no less from Community Playthings. They are truly beautiful and so much nicer than some plastic versions which are currently on the market and between you and me look a little too much like dog beds for me to want to put any baby or toddler into them to sleep.

We have purchased two of these Dream Coracles and have one placed into our Cosy Corner in the Playroom and the other is tucked into a quiet corner in our Lounge. They have been very well received by all of the under twos and we even had a three year old sleep in one last week as she fell asleep at the dinner table and we managed to move her into the Coracle where she remained for an hour and a half until her daddy came to collect her at the end of the day.

We have had a major revamp of the storage we use in our Classroom for our over 2's. Well previously they didn't have any storage apart from our large brick cupboard, which is filled with our lovely Community Playthings blocks of course!

We have been looking around for a storage system which is functional attractive but also easy for the children to access themselves. Again Community Playthings have come up trumps, we have purchased three of the cupboards below. One similar to the one below with two bays of 4 clear plastic sturdy storage trays and another two larger ones with 12 clear trays. They are now stocked full of a wide assortment of toys and resources which the children are able to access themselves, from Duplo to Mobilo and Musical Instruments to Small World Play Items. We were a little bit concerned that having the resources all out at an accessible level for the children that it would turn into a free-for-all, however the children have been fantastic at managing what and how much they have out on the carpet at any one time. I hope they keep their bedrooms as clean and tidy at home. Carpet, did I mention the one last item well two really, David Boylan (David Boylan Carpet Fitting Services, Tel 07525827181) has fitted some lovely new green plush carpet in the classroom, previously we just had rugs on top of polished floorboards which were very noisy not to mention cold in the Winter months and this weekend he replaced our lovely jigsaw lino with new you guessed it jigsaw lino in the dining-room. The old flooring had been down for five years and was beginning to show signs of wear and tear.



Sharing Your Child's Wow Moments

Our Wow Walls in both the Under and Over 2's are looking pretty amazing. Thank you so much everybody for supporting us and letting us know about **anything** exciting which happens to your child whilst not in our care. This could be a trip out with family, trying a new food for the first time, taking their first steps, sleeping in a big bed for the first time, wearing big boy boxers, the list is endless!

You have all been fantastic about filling our Wow Cards for your children and popping them into your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet folders for us to share here at Grafton. Our circle times have been wonderful as the children now have something to focus on and it's delightful listening to them telling us all about their wonderful Wow Moments. Please don't stop, it would be fabulous if we could have one or two a month for each child, as our wall slowly fills up, we will then move older cards into the children's Learning Journals as a lasting record of all of their amazing achievements.

If you have ran out of Wow cards just pop a note into your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet and we shall pop some more into your child's bag a.s.a.p.

New Toys & Resources

For some time we have wanted to improve the sleeping arrangements for our Under Two's here at Grafton. At the moment we have seven folding cots six of which are placed upstairs in our bedrooms and monitored by CCTV. Now although this system has worked well for the past 21 years that Grafton has provided childcare, there is always room for improvement. As many of you will know we are a great lover of all of the beautiful wooden resources produced by Community Playthings. In October when Denise opened her copy of Nursery World magazine out dropped a flyer from Community Playthings advertising their new "Dream Coracle", the leaflet went on to enthuse how Early Years experts believed that under two's should not be confined in cots, but have the freedom to choose when to sleep or rest a view that we also share. Yet it didn't feel right to see an infant lying on a mat on the floor which is what some settings do, not here at Grafton though I should add. The Community Playthings design team perceived the need for a sleep option that babies could access themselves - something that still give the child (and parents and carers) a sense of protection. The Dream Coracles made from formed Beech provide an inviting sleep space or cosy retreat for children between 6 to 20 months. It's low edge allows the older child to climb in and out independently, and it's high end



As a parent, you could think about Understanding the World as the area of learning that might one day help your child to be a scientist or an engineer. Why? The reason is that it involves all the things that your child enjoys doing such as looking at things closely to find out about them, or pressing, pulling and pushing them to find out what they do—the thing scientists and engineers often do as part of their work!

Within the EYFS, Understanding the World covers three main areas:

- people and communities
- 'the world', and
- technology.

Together, these areas help children to make sense of all the things that they see and things that happen (or have happened) in their own family or community and where they live. Children's understanding of these areas of their lives develops by:

- being with people within their family and community and finding out about their lives
- discovering what different places are like, and
- finding out about and using technology.

Remember when you support your child's learning:

- Understanding the World is about real people, real places and things that really happen or happened.
- Children learn best through first-hand experiences by playing, exploring, trying things out, listening, talking and thinking about their experiences.
- Children need time to 'digest' information, so don't expect them to notice or learn at the same rate as an adult does!

People and Communities

In their early years, children can learn about:

- who they are and what they can do (in the present as a three, four-or five-year-old, and in the past as a baby or toddler)
- who is in their family (such as mum, dad, partners, brothers, sisters, cousins, grandparents)
- which people they know well (other family members and friends) or by sight (such as the people at the corner shop or the school crossing patrol warden)
- what, how and why their family celebrates birthdays, festivals, anniversaries or other events.

How to help your child learn at home:

- Share photographs of your child as a baby and as they are now,

pointing out the similarities and differences.

- Look at family photographs together to help your child appreciate what makes your family special to you.
- Play all sorts of games that help your child recognise their name, for example, sign; 'Hidey boo, I see you, (add child's name)'.
- Sing songs to teach your child the names of different parts of the body, such as, 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' and 'One finger, one thumb keep moving'.
- Make a display with photographs or drawings showing things that your child can do, such as hopping, putting something away or getting into the bath perhaps. Display it in a prominent place in your home. This could be similar to our "Wow Wall" here at Grafton.
- Talk to your child about their appearance and similarities and differences. What makes them special? What family members do they resemble? How are they different from other children they know?
- Talk about your family name and other people in your family who share it.
- Tell stories about what different members of the family do, or did 'Grandad used to go away to sea because he was a sailor'; 'When your big sister was a little girl she liked to go to football matches'.
- Share photographs of special events or celebrations and talk about important events that other people enjoy, for example, the Olympic Games this Summer.
- Explain that some people have different traditions but tend to celebrate special events in a similar way—for example, when celebrating, people often wear special clothes, eat special food, exchange presents, play special music and take photographs.
- When out shopping or on walks, draw children's attention to different people and places, such as shopkeepers, the local school or fire station.
- Before going out you could play a game about who you might see along the way. For example, 'This person wears a bright yellow coat and helps us to cross the road, I wonder who it could be?', thinking of Lolly Linda, our Lollypop Lady at Decoy School.

The World

In their early years, children can learn about:

- where their family lives (now and previously)
- what their home is like (flat, house; rural, non-rural; busy or remote areas)

Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you again to the parents of the following children:- Oliver, Jacob, Bobby, Lewis, Jamie, Charlotte, Sophie, Fynn, George, Edward and Monty, who have donated dressing up clothes, hard hats, 3 sacks of toys, 2 lots of washable nappies, Thomas puzzles, carrier bags, 3 giant plastic bottles, craft supplies, old cards, books, Christmas fabric, a giant book rack and junk modelling items. We would also like to thank Julie our student who kindly donated some of her children's old puzzles and Dayle's mummy and Teignmouth Sorting Office who have very generously donated lots of resources for our Post Office Role Play Area

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, it would be greatly appreciated. Or Anything that you think we might find useful for arts and crafts, just ask if you're not sure.

- Child sized dressing up clothing, child sized hats etc.
- Magazines that depict other cultures
- Crayons, water colour paints, or any misc. art supplies, such as fabric scraps, glitter, pipe cleaners, paper plates, etc.
- Any odd shaped boxes, packages, or bottles especially if you can get 12 or more of the same size.

Grafton's Emergency Mobile Number is 07547525625

We have bought a new mobile phone for staff to use when they take children off the premises since our old one is defunct. Over the next few weeks we shall be loading all of the children's contact numbers into our new mobile telephone. If you have changed your telephone contact details, please could you write your new numbers in the front of your child's Daily Diary in the section for Parent's Notes, or in the section in your child's Communication Booklet for week beginning 26th November or the following week beginning the 3rd December, so that we can make sure that any telephone numbers we have loaded into our new mobile telephone are the most up to date for you.

Please do not use our mobile to call Grafton Childcare or to send text's. It will only ever be used by our staff to contact you in an **Emergency Situation** and will not be used for general day to day contact with Parents, 95% of the time the telephone will be turned off, apart from when staff are off the premises.

Please continue to use Grafton's Landline for all telephone calls 01626 355066 or email denise.tupman@inbox.com, thank you.



Our Topics for November & December

During October and early November we have really enjoyed focusing on the signs of Autumn, Halloween and Children in Need with your children which we linked in well with many of the children who had a fascination with Numbers and Colours which worked well with our planning for the first half of half-term.

With Children In Need over the children are now getting into dare I say Christmas mode. Dayle has been chatting with the children about his mummy who is a Post woman, which has intrigued the children as they all know who Postman Pat is and of course the Jolly Postman from the Jolly Postman books. At our planning meeting on the 31st October we decided to focus this interest by creating our own Post Office in our Role-play Area. This has been a massive hit and we must thank again Dayle's mummy for providing us with some lovely props for the children to use in our Post Office which has really brought our Role-play area to life. We spent much of last week wrapping an assortment of parcels and small packets in brown paper with the children, so they would have items to post and then deliver of course.

We have enjoyed reading the Jolly Christmas Postman at least once a day during circle time, I'm sure Dayle and Sadie must be reciting the words in their sleep by now. Over the next couple of weeks we shall be sending home a series of very simple work sheets for the children to complete at home. These are not tests don't worry they are for the children to complete, we don't want them to be completed by mummy's and daddy's although you will need to sit with your child and read through them together so they understand what they need to do. Our focus is on reinforcing our topics and beginning to gently encourage the children to hold their pencil correctly, it does not matter at this stage whether they use their left or right hand, just that they are holding their pencils correctly.

We have our next staff meeting on Monday 3rd December, when we will be finalising our plans for the remainder of this term, please could you complete your child's "My Favourite Things" page for November to help with our child led planning. To link in with Christmas we shall be converting our "Kids Shed" into Santa's Workshop, where we will be encouraging our Elves to create lots of gifts and presents for this festive season. We have Elf and Safety covered with the kind donation from Oliver's mummy of the four hard hats. Donations of any other Christmassy items which might help set the scene would be very much appreciated. The children have already been to ASDA and bought some role-play outfits to get them into the spirit of Santa's Workshop!!!!



- what is in their local area (streets, traffic, trees, plants, shops, parks)
- what other places are like that they visited (a shopping centre, a beach, the countryside)
- differences between their local area and other places they know or have visited
- what is happening in the local area (road works, new buildings, a flood)
- what things are called (animals, plants, trees, ponds)
- why some things happen (ice melting, why we feel hot in warm weather).

How to help your child:

- As a starting point for exploring your home, play hide and seek inside. As you hunt for your child, describe aloud where you are looking as you move from room to room.
- Share books about different kinds of homes with your child. You should be able to find a variety at Newton Abbot library.
- Play a hide and find game with household items such as a nail brush, a spoon, a cup and a towel - when you find them, talk about what items are used for and what they are made from.
- Collect items from around the house that are soft, or hard, fluffy or rough - take turns to feel items and describe them.
- Go for lots of walks or rides in a buggy to explore your local area and introduce games along the way. Games such as 'Let's look out for shops' or 'Let's find all the trees with conkers' help children to get involved in discussions about what things are and what they are like.
- Take photographs of your child to remind them of days out, with a bucket and spade from the beach or with a rucksack you took on a walk, for example. Sharing these later will help them recall some of what they did and saw on their outing.
- Look at pictures in a travel brochure and identify how different places have trees, beach, sea, boats, buildings and other things in common. Talk about how the places are similar to or different from places your child has visited.
- While on walks or out shopping, draw your child's attention to what is happening in the area. You might be able to follow up local events by looking at a local newspaper or from watching selected news and weather information on a PC, laptop computer, radio or TV.
- Take a couple of containers with you when you go to the park to collect any natural items that interest your child, such as sticks, stones, conkers, fir cones and leaves or worms, spiders or other creepy crawlies.

When you get home look at them carefully through a magnifier or photograph them and talk about what they are like and how to keep them or let them free.

- Play games like 'I Spy' to draw your child's attention to the aspects of the natural world, such as leaves, birds and insects.
- Explore different environments through books such as Peppa Pig's Nature Trail or We're Going on a Bear Hunt both of which show different kinds of terrain and are available at Newton Abbot Library.
- Investigate how some things can change in texture and substance, such as how ice melts or melted chocolate can solidify. This is best explored at the time of the event, for example, when giving your child an ice cream on a hot day, talk in simple terms about your child's need for fluids and how the heat affects the ice cream.

Technology

In their early years, children can learn:

- which objects occur naturally, which are made by people and which work because of the technology inside them
- that some objects contain micro-processors and are used for various purposes such as saving information, heating food or making music.

How to help your child:

- Sort out some of your child's toys with them by using different categories, such as noisy items and quiet items or wooden and plastic things.
- As your child becomes used to categorising items, add some that are electronic such as a book that recites a rhyme when a button is activated. Explain to your child that the book works because it has a microchip inside it.
- Talk to your child about other items in your home that rely on a micro-processor, such as a washing machine, microwave or mobile phone.
- Point out things outside the home that rely on technology to make them work such as a pedestrian crossing, a car or a drinks machine.
- Ask your child's key worker to tell you what technology your child is using here at Grafton so that you can talk to your child about it. We have an assortment of cameras, our Ipad which is very popular and lots of our Happyland vehicles and buildings have lights and sounds buttons which all use microprocessors.



We would like to thank each and every parent and of course the children as well for helping Grafton Childcare to raise the pretty amazing figure of £187.71 during Children In Need, £2.68p more than last years pretty amazing total. All of the children, staff and students really got into the spotty spirit and were pretty amazing at baking and creating a huge amount of spotty cakes, cookies, games puzzles and topped it off with four giant life sized paintings of Pudsey and Blush which are now up on display around the setting. We would like to thank Zoe for kindly drawing out the huge designs for the children to decorate, they are amazing. We feel we ought to also mention both Jamie and Lewis who wore the most amazing spotty outfits, with each individual spot hand sewn onto their outfits!



Our Jiggles CD has 16 fun filled packed songs designed to help develop each child's musical, cognitive, language, social and motor skills with the use of fun,

original music written with young children in mind from birth up to 6 years of age. Using music as developmental tools is not a new concept, but singing fun, upbeat, funky music and songs that children, parents and key workers LOVE makes it really easy for children to learn with.

The Jiggles CD has been a huge hit here at Grafton and we have now incorporated it into our daily routine, we have also purchased the other 5 CD's in the series because we really have been so impressed with the quality of the songs, music and the KindyRock music is written specifically for developing young minds. The resources are fun and easy to use and affordable, whether you are musical or not.

If anybody would like to purchase their very own CD for your children to enjoy at home or in the car if you could let us have £18 to cover it's cost, we have just two spare copies left and once they are gone..... Well enough said!