

## Short Term Planning for October, November & December 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15 Global Hand Washing Day	16 World Food Day	17	18	19
22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
29	30	31 Full Staff Meeting 6-7,30pm	1	2
5	6	7	8	9 (11th) Remembrance Day
12	13 World Kindness Day	14	15	16 Children In Need Day
19	20 Universal Children's Day UN	21	22 US Thanksgiving	23
26	27	28	29	30 St Andrew's Day, Scotland
3	4	5	6	7
10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
17	18	18	20 (21st) Winter Solstice	21 Grafton Closes at 7pm & reopens 7am 2nd January

We will shortly be sending £20 M&S Vouchers to two parents who kindly recommended Grafton Childcare to three of our new children during the past six months. Thank You, as they say recommendation is always the best form of Advertising.

### 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.



## Grafton Childcare

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For the past three years we have been very proud to be part of the testing team of products being put forward for the annual Practical Preschool Magazine awards. This is when we get to test out an assortment of toys and equipment with the children and then write up a review for the awards team.

One of the many items which we tested this year was one of the KindyRock CD's called "jiggles" from New Zealand, for which they have just won a coveted Gold Award.

Scientific research confirms that music has a very powerful effect on a child's brain development right from birth. We believe healthy musical interaction is as vital as good food nutrition for development throughout a child's life.

The KindyRock concept aims to enhance a child's cognitive, physical and social growth using a range of tools developed during the CD's developer Judi Cranston's years of experience as an educator and musician. Here at Grafton we do not use it just as entertainment, but as a powerful and easy to use educational resource.

The jiggles CD has 16 fun filed 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

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## KindyRock

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, you can be assured that the songs have got all the right ingredients.

The lyrics are packed full of learning opportunities and aim to develop: musical skills (rhythm, pitch etc) \* language (vocabulary, rhyming concepts, syntax etc) \* maths language and concepts \* social skills \* memory \* cognitive skills \* creativity \* spatial awareness \* fine motor skills \* muscle development \* gross motor skills \* self esteem \* hand-eye coordination .....to name a few! The songs are pitched at the right level for young children, written at the right speed that children can learn at and include other teaching concepts such as echoing to make it really easy for kids to learn with.

We have purchased the optional Teaching Manuals which are an added bonus for our key workers. Each song suggests suitable ages that are appropriate to use. They have lyric sheets, ideas for actions and extension ideas. They also show the musical and other skills that are developed in each particular song and have links to the New Zealand curriculum, which is very similar to the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which we have to follow here in the UK. I know many of the children have been going home and telling parents about Jiggle Time here at Grafton and a few of you have also asked if you could purchase a copy of the Jiggle CD. When we bought the other CD's we also purchased some additional Jiggle copies, so 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 and shipping from New Zealand. We only purchased 5 CD's so it will be first come first served, but if we get enough requests we might put in another order just before Christmas.



## So Long Emily, Welcome Estelle, Sharon, Klaudia & Stephen

Sadly Emily Treneary left us at the end of September after working at Grafton for over three years to move up to Churchdown in Gloucestershire to be with her partner Matthew Tupman.

Matthew is Denise's eldest son who has started a new job in Cirencester in a large restoration garage and loving it by all accounts. Emily is currently seeking a position in a nursery nearby, we will keep you all posted once she finds something suitable as we know many of the parents have been asking if she has settled yet.

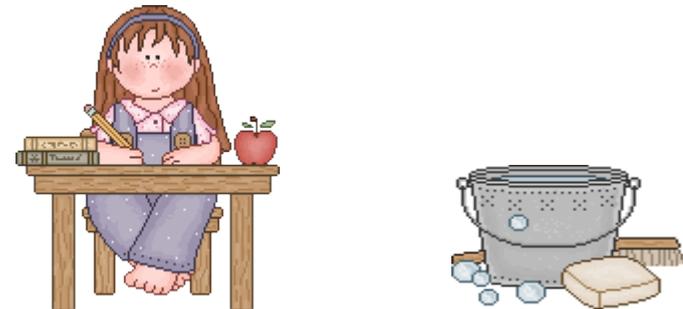
We have appointed Estelle Minton to replace Emily and she will be starting with us towards the end of October, she has already been spending a few half days with us over the last few weeks whilst she has been serving out her notice period at the nursery she was working at in Exeter. We are really looking forward to Estelle joining our team here at Grafton, she will replace Emily as Senior Nursery Nurse for our Under 2's.

We have recently appointed Klaudia Fronczak who will be working with our Over Two's whilst she completes her Advanced Apprenticeship with us and joins our staff team here at Grafton. She already holds a Level 2 Diploma in the Children and Young People's Workforce.

We have a mature student joining us for a few months, we would like to welcome Julie Perry whilst she completes some units towards her Level 3 Diploma for a Certificate in the Children and Young People's Workforce.

We have also for the first time appointed over very own cleaner, a drum roll please for Stephen Morrison who has taken on the task of keeping Grafton spick and span for us and Sharon Heath who has been appointed as Grafton's very first Secretary. Sharon will be working three days a week initially to process wages, invoices and keep our accounts ticking over.

Both of these appointments will enable Denise to be able to spend more time with the children which she was beginning to miss terribly. Denise will now be able to go back to being a floating member of staff, providing guidance and support and an extra pair of hands where needed. She is looking forward to getting stuck back in up to her elbows in PVA glue and paint!



## Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you again to the parent's of the following children:- Joshua, Freyja, William, Jacob, Isaac, Sophie, Lottie, Charlotte & Charlie, who have donated dressing up clothes, musical instruments, painting aprons, carrier bags, envelopes, tiles, small cardboard boxes, tissue paper and crafty bits and bobs, baby toys and junk modelling items.

## 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 your 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.

## New Toys & Resources

Role-play is crucial to all areas of learning, fostering physical, social and emotional development, expressive language and a sense of purpose. To encourage this we have recently purchased some new pieces from Community Playthings to add to our large role-play area. Our new Drama Centre has proved a hit with both the girls and the boys. It provides lots of ways to organise and store our role-play outfits, we can roll it where we want, then hide the wheels from little fingers. The arches and large transparent pieces of netting transform it into an instant stage, house or cosy space. All of the children love the large oval mirror placed on one end for checking out their outfits. For the under twos we have purchased a new Browser Box, which invites the little ones to explore and put away their books and toys and then get them out again, or just sit in the box with their toys. Those that are learning to walk love to cruise along the side for support. The smooth hardwood handholds provide peepholes for the little ones to see what their friends are up to.



## Sharing Your Child's Wow Moments

We would like to encourage more parents & carers to let us know about your own child's "wow" moments from home. The information which you share with us is vital to your child's Key Worker as without this information it is very tricky for them to be able to work in true partnership for your child.

So **anything** exciting which happens to your child whilst not in our care we want to know about please. 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!

We shall be sending home with each child an envelope containing four or five lilac and purple postcards onto which we would like to encourage you to make a quick note of one of your child's recent "wow moments" and slip it inside your child's Daily Diary or Communication Book and we will share the information during circle time and then add your child's "wow" card to our displays in the conservatories. If you could try and complete a postcard once or possibly twice a month that would be fabulous and lovely for your child to be able to share. When you need additional postcards just ask via your child's Daily Dairy or Communication Booklet and we shall let you have a fresh supply.

We have received lots of lovely comments about our new Communication Booklets for our over two's and about the changes we have been making over the past few months to the information which we share on our website. thank you all feedback is always very useful for us to see if what we are doing is working or not!

We have noticed that some parents of our over 2's only occasionally write any comments or information which we need to be aware of in their child's Communication Booklet. Could we please encourage you to use each weeks "Parent's/Carer's Communication Page" to keep us up to date with what is happening on a day to day basis.

You might have noticed that on occasion Denise has scribed in a comment a parent might have made when dropping off their child at the door, which she feels their key worker will need to be aware of. It's not a test you don't need to write a comment every day, but if your child is leaving early, being collected by somebody different, had their injection's yesterday, slept at Nan's last night etc it might be useful if we are aware of this information so that we can take the information onboard during the course of your child's session and change our plans accordingly.

## Sainsbury Active Kids & Tesco Vouchers

During late September and October all of our new equipment and resources have arrived from our redemption of the vouchers which you had very kindly sent in from Sainsbury's and Tesco's. We are now the very grateful owners of the following items:-

1. 5lt Washable PVA Glue
2. A set of giant PVA Rollers
3. A roll of Googly Eye Stickers
4. Set of Jumbo Pipe Cleaners
5. Camouflage Netting Set for Den Making
6. A giant storage trunk
7. 48 foam balls
8. A squistle
9. 12 Coloured Tennis balls
10. Set of holdalls to store our sports equipment neatly inside our trunk.



## Recycled Resources

It's amazing how many everyday items that we place in the recycling bin have great potential to aid learning. But how do we utilise them? Do we just put them in the water play area or the 'junk modelling box', or do we examine them more closely and use them in more exciting ways to support skills?

Shampoo, soap and bubble bath receptacles come in different shapes and sizes. Some clear, some are tinted and some are opaque. Some have pumps which deliver a specific amount. Many containers dispense their contents by squeezing the sides - for example, sauce bottles. We try to provide a whole range for the children to experiment with here.

Children can learn a lot in the water area when play is carefully planned. We think about how the containers can assist the children's knowledge of capacity, forces and properties. Sometimes we will add food colouring or glitter, aromas or bubble bath. We help the children to reflect on the viscosity of messy play! Does their mixture pour, is it translucent?

Some of the children love emptying and filling containers, reflecting their schematic behaviours, so we have a variety of pots from which to select. Yoghurt pots and bottles come in all shapes and sizes and are great for little hands. Pouring liquids into small and large containers is often really enjoyable for the children and also helps with their hand-eye coordination. You see we use recycled containers a lot of the time here at Grafton, but sometimes it's useful to step back and reflect on new approaches to how we use these free, versatile and readily accessible resources. Thank you to those who send in their bottles and pots.

## Wrap-around Childcare

It seems amazing that we are fast approaching half-term and the six children for whom we provide wrap-around childcare from Decoy Primary School have all settled very quickly into the routine of daily school life again.

Three of our "big ones" have joined the Reception Class at Decoy this year and it has been lovely to see them all settling in well, making new friends as well and continuing their friendships with their friends from Grafton.

We have really enjoyed having the class bear "Paddington" back for visit's when Erin, Kenzie-James and Nadira have been chosen to be the class leader for the day, which means they get the honour of bringing "Paddington" home the night before. He comes complete with his very own diary to complete and some of his adventures and pictures have been pretty amazing.

Denise does the school run 95% of the time and occasionally Christopher will do so, if Denise has to attend a training course. On the 5th November she will be attending a course on Domestic Violence so Christopher will provide the wrap-around childcare on that Monday.

Could we remind parents that we do walk to and from school every day, no matter what the weather is doing, at the moment it seems to be raining rather a lot. In the mornings we leave the house at 8.35 am and walk up Church Road and down Decoy Road towards the school. If you are running late, please could drive towards school and find us, we are very happy to stop for you to drop your child off, but can't wait at the house as this could then make all of the children late for school.

We take road safety very seriously on the way to and from school and the children walk holding hands with a partner. If you are thinking of buying your child a new coat for Christmas could we suggest that you buy a **warm waterproof** one, with a sturdy hood with a neck fastening, so it is securable and does not keep blowing down.

It would also be helpful if your child had a rucksack which is large enough to hold both their lunch box and their book bag. So that they then have both hands free to hold Denise's hand and their walking partners hand as well.

When the weather is kind we often stop off in Decoy Park to feed the swans on the way home from school and then walk up through the woods and the football pitches in Coach Road for a change of scenery, so sensible footwear is always a good idea please.



ones are still present. Similarly, if your little one is ill, they may temporarily regress with their movement. As soon as there're feeling well again. They'll have the energy to pick up where they left off.

Portents often compare their child to others, but this isn't always helpful as your baby will go at his own pace. Remember to treat your child as an individual, not to think too much about reaching milestones and most importantly, to seek help from your health visitor or GP if you are worried.

Babies will have health and development checks - usually at six to eight weeks, 12 months and again between 24 and 36 months as mentioned in our article on the Progress Checks at 2 years. These are all opportunities for parents to discuss health, development or parenting in general.

It is worth noting that premature babies may have developmental delays, but equally they may not.

**Motor skills.** It's also worth remembering there is a difference between fine and gross motor skills. Fine motor skills are things like stacking blocks or colouring, while gross motor skills are activities such as crawling or walking. And you may notice your baby has a natural tendency towards one group or the other. Equally, they may seem to master social or cognitive skills such as talking more easily than physical movement.

Just remember there's no rush and babies will do things under their own steam. But you can help - just by making sure your little one can move around and practice their new abilities freely, easily and safely. And as parents, make time to enjoy watching your baby grow, develop and master these exciting new skills. If I have one piece of advice I would say don't get too stressed about reading the latest yummy mummy book on parenting which states your baby or child should be doing xyz at so and so months, remember they have probably not read the book so don't know either and will usually reach each milestone at their own pace.

I would suggest that you do however read the A4 Booklet which we give all our parents entitled "Areas of Learning and Development, a Condensed Guide for Parents". It's worth noting that babies, toddlers and children develop at their own rates, and in their own ways. The development matters statements and their order which form part of the Early years Foundation Stage Developmental Matters Outcomes should not be taken as necessary steps for individual children.

They should not be used as checklists. The age/stage bands overlap because these are not fixed age boundaries but suggest a typical range of development. You can find more information about baby and child development at <http://www.nhs.uk/tools/pages/birthtofive.aspx>  
<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/early-years-foundation-stage-2012/>



## Progress Check At Age Two

In our last newsletter we wrote about the changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage EYFS, effective from September 2012, one of which was to provide for early intervention where necessary, through the introduction of a statutory progress check which has been introduced between the ages of **24 months and 36 months**. This means that during this period we will give parents a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning:

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

This check will highlight areas where your child is progressing well and anywhere they might need some extra help or support as well as how they like to learn. It will also include ideas for yourselves and other family members or carers to support your child's learning at home.

There will be an opportunity for you to add your own comments. There is an expectation that you will share the progress check information with other professionals such as health visitors who could use it as part of the 2 year old health and development review if it has not yet been done.

In Devon there are plans that from 2015 that the Health Visitors will work together with the Settings to produce the reviews, but this is still in the planning stages at present. Watch this space as they say!

Please let us know when your child's health and development review is taking place so that if possible we can complete a progress check with you for your child so that this can then be shared.

On the 6th and 20th October Denise is attending training from Devon's Early Years Advisory Team sharing their chosen format on how they would like local settings to complete the Progress check at 2.

From early November we shall start to produce the required Statutory Progress checks for all of our children between **24 months and 36 months**. We have almost 20 to do and intend to start with those who are eldest first and work backwards to the youngest, unless we have identified any areas where a child's progress is less than expected - areas in which some additional support might be needed.

We expect that all of the initial cohort of Progress Checks should be completed before we close for Christmas on the 21st December 2012. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's Progress Check please let us know.

## Physical Activity and Energetic Play

Physical activity and energetic play provides exercise, encourages co-ordination and helps children develop physical skills. The Children's Play Council has done some research that shows that children who have easy, regular access to outdoor, energetic play:

- ☺ Are better at physical tasks e.g. Doing up a coat, neat hand writing and so on
- ☺ Are fitter and are more able to keep up with their friends in the playground at nursery and school
- ☺ Are less likely to become stressed and anxious

Research on brain development and children's learning has proved without any doubt that physical activity increases the flow of blood to the brain, this helps the connections in children's brains to grow and multiply and to work more effectively.

It has been proved that children learn better as a direct result of physical exercise. Physical exercise has been proven to help children concentrate, to be more alert and to have improved scores in their school tests.

In order to keep warm outside children need:

1. Layers of clothing, vest, t-shirt, fleece, hat, socks and or tights
2. Waterproof boots, wellies or shoes
3. A waterproof and warm coat
4. Scarf and Gloves
5. All clothing that is labelled with their name

What causes a cold? A cold is not caused by exposure to cold air, dampness or being outside. A cold is a viral infection. How is a cold spread?

When a child coughs, the virus in their saliva is sprayed into the air and breathed in by other children. Colds are also spread by touching - the virus goes from skin to skin.

Why are colds common in the winter time? The cold weather means that children spend more time indoors with the windows shut. Germs spread more easily in the cosy, warm environment. Research shows that children are more likely to catch a cold if the heat is turned up to high.

How can we prevent the spread of colds?

1. Wash hands frequently, especially before eating food and after going to the toilet.
2. Avoiding kissing on the mouth as it spreads germs, kissing on the forehead or on the cheek will not spread as many germs.
3. We encourage children to catch their cough or sneezes into their elbow

**Sitting, bouncing and crawling**, babies learn to sit - first supported and then unsupported. Your baby will need to be placed somewhere safe so that if he topples over he won't hurt himself. You can encourage sitting by holding on to your child's hands and seeing if he attempts to pull up to a sit.

As he masters this skill, gradually he will be able to sit up for longer periods and correct himself if he leans too far one way. He might at times get stuck, so it's good for parents to be close by.

Every baby is different - so some may progress from sitting to crawling while others may miss some stages. Some never crawl but bottom bounce instead until they get up and walk. If your baby does decide to crawl, his first efforts are likely to be towards something. You can encourage this by putting a favourite toy just out of reach or by calling to him from a few paces away.

Try to place him on a soft blanket or carpet and be prepared for him to stumble a little as he may still be too young to support his own body with on his arms. Your baby may crawl sideways, backwards or even with one knee up. This is all part of your baby finding the best way to move around.



**Standing and cruising**, Gradually your child may learn to pull himself up into a standing position. You can encourage this by supporting his underarms with your hands and bouncing him up and down. You may notice he stiffens his legs and relaxes them again and sometimes even resists being put down again.

Once baby has learned how to stand, he may embark on what is known as cruising, which is using the furniture to move a few steps. Consider safety and think about whether he could injure himself by banging, knocking or tumbling into furniture. Try to cover up wires, remove sharp or unstable items and put locks on cupboards. Think about stargates too. But remember some slips and falls are an inevitable and all part of learning.

**Walking**, while your toddler is learning to take his first steps, some parents use a push-along walker to help their baby's confidence. Other parents like to sit apart on the floor so the baby can walk between them - possibly moving further apart so the child covers a greater distance.

Practice makes perfect, so make sure your baby is free to have a wander when he feels like it. The NHS suggests that children who can walk are physically active for at least three hours, spread out, every day.

**Milestones**, Babies decide when they feel confident enough to roll over, sit, crawl or walk. And if your baby is learning a skill, it's better to leave him to fully grasp it rather than push him onto the next stage.

Sometimes your baby may seem to lose a skill due to concentrating on gaining a new ability. However, once he has mastered the new skill, you will see the old

## Moving On Up

Your baby's development from sitting to standing and cruising to crawling we find that parents often focus on what their baby should be doing physically, and when, according to their age. But babies all move and develop at a different pace. Here, we explore the stages and see how parents can support this development at home.

Parents are often bombarded with information about what their baby 'should' be doing at a certain age. While this can help mums and dads anticipate the stages that are coming, it can also cause anxiety and encourage parents to see milestones as something competitive to rush towards. It's important to remember that 'first' such as crawling and walking are just markers rather than set in stone. Babies learn and develop at different rates, so let your little one go at his own pace and celebrate his achievements.

**Kicking, wriggling and rolling over**, many babies love to kick their legs and wriggle around in the womb. So, naturally, after they're born this continues. To encourage your baby, make sure he has enough space when he lies down and that he's not constricted by clothing that's too big or too small.

Rolling over is usually the next stage of movement - some babies reach it faster than others. Be wary about putting your baby on a bed or a high surface in case he surprises you by demonstrating his new-found rolling skills. I can still remember the day my eldest son when as a baby rolled for the first time, straight into one of my under bed draws which I had opened bedside the bed and frightened the living daylights out of me.

Many parents give their babies supervised tummy time to strengthen their backs, arms and necks; to encourage them to roll over; and to give them a different view of the world. Research shows that continually putting babies on their backs can delay the development of motor skills, essential for movement and co-ordination. Experts suggest up to 30 minutes of tummy time per day - in one go or in several shorter periods if the baby is not so keen!

Make sure your baby is awake and alert during tummy time and supervise him. Lay him on a comfortable surface or across your knees. Some parents also suggest putting young babies face down on your stomach for tummy time, so he feels close to you.



not their hands, if they cannot get to a tissue quickly enough.

4. Children must have access to fresh air. Sunlight is known to kill viruses, even in Winter months.

The children will be going outside even in cold, damp weather. Research shows that winter weather will not worsen any cold symptoms. It is harder for germs to travel in fresh air.

Fun and relaxation! Stress makes everybody more vulnerable to infections. People under stress are more likely to experience a cold than people who are stress free.

We hope all this information helps you to understand why we expect, and encourage, your children to play outside whenever possible and at least once a day!



## Newton Abbot's Children's Centres

The two Newton Abbot and District Children's Centres have recently changed their name. The centre in Coronation Road, Newton Abbot is now known as Treehouse Children's Centre and the centre in Sandringham Road, Buckland is now known as Sunshine Children's Centre. All other contact details remain the same. The names were chosen in consultation with the parent and carers who use the centre.

The Autumn Programme of events in and around Newton Abbot has now been published and is packed full of activities you can attend with your child up until 7th December, if any parent would like a copy please pop a note into your child's Daily Diary or Communication booklet and we will slip a copy into your child's bag. It includes details of the Little Buddies Sessions at Treehouse, Bosom Buddies at Sunshine, Real Nappy and Baby Slip Drop ins at Sunshine to name just a few to

## Bid To Increase The Use Of Reusable Nappies

Parents are being encouraged to try reusable nappies as part of a bid by Teignbridge Council to reduce waste. Teignbridge recycling officer Ben Bryant explains that using reusable nappies instead of disposables can save families up to £1,000 per baby. As Grafton Childcare has used washable nappies for over 13 years we are also very keen to promote their use to all of our parents.

The Teignbridge real nappy project is now in it's fourth year and is one of the most successful authorities in Devon for getting parents to convert to the environmentally friendly nappies.

Denise recently met Ben at a road show and he made the following comments. 'It can be a minefield for parents to know what to get and how to use them so we have a scheme where they can try before they buy. 'We have trial kits which they can use for a month to see how they get on.' For a £25 deposit, refundable on return of the kit, parents can try up to 15 different types of real nappies, in four sizes. At the end of the four weeks, parents who want to carry on using them will receive a 20 per cent off voucher towards the cost.

Since the campaign in Teignbridge began, 200 kits have been trialled with a conversion rate of parents going on to use the reusable nappies either full time or part of the time is now at 80 per cent. A real nappy adviser is also on hand to give guidance and information on how to use them. Mr Bryant added: 'The trial means parents can find a type which suits them. 'We have sourced a representative sample of the best of the market and they are chemical free and kinder for babies as well as saving money.

'The designs are funky and are made from soft materials including organic cotton or bamboo or quick drying microfiber. 'We are blazing a trail to encourage parents' to try real nappies and spreading the word.

'It's something we believe in and we have had a lot of positive feedback from parents who have tried them.'

'He explained that every baby using disposable nappies produces 1.5 tonnes of waste which goes to Devon landfill sites, equal to about 5,850 nappies. Across Devon, 28 million nappies are sent to landfill every year.

However, once in landfill, the waste goes on to produce methane as it breaks down which is 20 times more harmful as a greenhouse gas than CO<sup>2</sup>.

The Teignbridge target is to get five per cent of the annual birth rate of 1,200 babies born in the district to convert to using reusable nappies.

For more information on our free real nappy trial kits please call Teignbridge's Recycling Helpline on 0800 731 0323 or email [recycling@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@teignbridge.gov.uk)



The BBC's Children in Need appeal is held each year on a Friday in November. The focus of the appeal is the Children in Need telethon, a whole evening of entertainment featuring various celebrities, but many other events and fundraising activities take place around the country.

Since 1980, Children in Need has supported children's projects in the UK by raising over £500 million.

This year Children in Need falls on Friday 16th November. Last year we raised an amazing £185.03, so lets see if we are able to beat that figure this year.

Drum role please.....

Week beginning 12th November, we shall have activities planned each day for your children, toddlers and babies to take part in, some of which will include:-



Baking our very own Pudsey Cup Cakes, with Chocolate Cake Toppers, which the children will then cunningly sell to parents for £1 a bag.



Painting and decorating our very own giant versions of Pudsey and Blush to add to our spotty tastic display.



Baking our very own Pudsey Bear Biscuits from a secret BBC Recipe, which the children will then cunningly sell to parents for £1 a bag!



We would like all of the children and staff to come in on Monday, Wednesday or Friday wearing as many pieces of spotty clothing as possible. For those that do we would ask for a donation of a £1 and those that don't £2. However please don't feel that you have to rush to ASDA or Sainsbury's and purchase lots of spotty gear, a plain white t-shirt with some colourful spots drawn onto it will be super and cheaper and mean you can donate more pennies to a very worthwhile cause.



The staff already have their thinking caps on for more spotty fun and games, craft and activities which we will enjoy all week so we will keep you all posted and start saving up all of your pennies any will be very gratefully received thank you.