



# Grafton Childcare

## Transport

- Monday 15th May - Friday 2nd June 2017

15th - 19th May 2017

### Phonics Pots

15th May - Cars & Trucks & things that Go!

22nd May - Planes & Rockets & things that Fly!

29th May - Ships & Boats & things that Float!

Transport items must fit inside your child's Phonics Pot.

### Wanted Junk

### Modelling Items

Please can you save up any items which we could use for junk modelling during our

'Transport' topic which will run until Friday 2nd June.

We would love any **small** cardboard boxes, e.g. from toothpaste, pilchards, cereals etc which the children could use to create their own small scale forms of Transport.

We would also love to recycle any small plastic pots and lids which the children could use as wheels. As always thank you very much for your support with any donations.



## Understanding the World

**People & Communities; The World; & Technology: Cars & Trucks & things that Go!**

Our topic on Goose & Sophie has now finished and was extremely popular it was lovely to hear from parents how much their children have chatted to them at home about the Goose & Sophie stories and our visit from Laura Wall. It was delightful to hear that one child has joined the library and loaned some of the Goose & Sophie books and a number of you have visited Laura's gallery in Teignmouth.

We are now moving onto our new three week 'Transport' topic which was inspired by two Richard Scarry books Cars & Trucks & things that Go and Planes and Rockets & thing that Fly and the children's love of transport.

Check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, we will be using our iPads to conduct our own research about all the various forms of transport the children can imagine. As well as enjoying the chance to program our Beebot to take itself on a journey around Grafton!

Our 'preschoolers' have been sent home a 'Transport Project' to complete over the next three weeks. Please return them during our third and final week between the 30th May - 2nd June along with any wow cards and photos of transport they have taken locally.



22nd - 26th May 2017

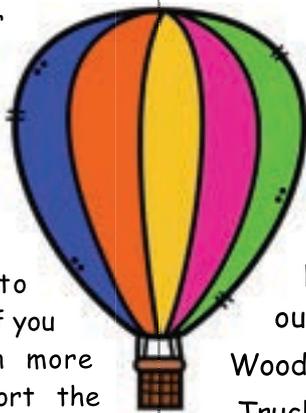
## Our New Music Wall

The children have all enjoyed using our new Music Wall up in the Playground which was created by Phil, Gary and some of the children.

As you can imagine it has been a massive hit with all of the children, especially the boys and we thought we would draw your attention to it this week as Music comes under the umbrella of Expressive Arts & Design.

Please remember to read this weeks blog if you would like to learn more about how we support the children's music develop. It also includes some suggestions to support you with introducing Music at home.

As well as opportunities to sing, there is easy access to our musical instruments in the dinning room which your child can use to make their own sounds and music. We have a range of specialist multicultural instruments, such as thunder drums and rainsticks, commercial instruments such as triangles, tambourines and drums, or homemade percussion sets made from saucepans, lids and spoons. We provide plenty of sources so your child is able to explore rhythm and beat both inside and out!



## Expressive Arts & Design

### Exploring & Using Media & Materials; Being Imaginative: Planes & Rockets & things that Fly!

We shall be enjoying the book 'Planes & Rockets & things that Fly, by Richard Scarry' during our second week and planning our own trip down to 'Newton Abbot Library' to exchange our library books for some new books about various forms of 'Transport'.

As our focus this week is on Exploring and Using Media & Materials, we shall be doing 'Transport' some Junk Modelling as well as creating our own Hot Air Balloons, to hang in the Conservatory.

Hopefully the weather will be kind as we plan on encouraging the children to design their own motorways in the playground with our pavement chalks. They will be able to then drive our collection of large Community Playthings Wooden Vehicles and Plastic Diggers, Tippers and Trucks around our motorways.

The 'Little Ones' will be enjoying using some of our plastic vehicles to drive through our paints to 'mark make' and we shall do a similar creative activity with bottle tops to create our own wheel prints display.

### A big thank you for your donations

We are always very grateful when parents, grandparents and members of the general public donate bits and bobs for the children to make use of here at Grafton.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Freyja who donated two boxes of Games and Puzzles she no longer plays with now she's at 'Big School' as well as some Little Tikes bits for our garden. Ollie's Grandma kindly donated some coffee filters which we will be using this week to make our Hot Air Balloons and Parachutes.



30th May - 2nd June 2017

### Why Are We Carrying Out Observations On Your Child?

All planning starts with observing children in order to understand and consider their current interests, development & learning.

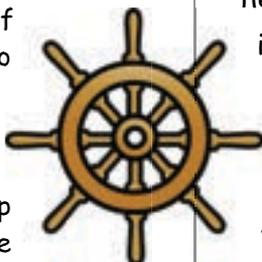
Babies and young children are individuals first, each with a unique profile of abilities.

We observe children to find out about their needs, what they are interested in and what they can do.

We note children's responses in different situations. We analyse our observations and highlight children's achievement or their need for further support.

We observe as part of our daily routine and use these to develop our records of learning and development.

Our observations of your child help us to assess the progress which your child is making. They help us to decide where children are in their learning and development and to plan what to do next. This is an essential part of daily practice in any setting, regardless of the age of the baby or child.



## Communication & Language Development

### Listening & Attention; Understanding; Speaking: Ships & Boats & things that Float!

We have another short but action packed four day week because of the Bank Holiday Monday when Grafton is closed. Our developmental focus will be Communication & Language Development as part of our 3rd and final week on our topic focused on 'Transport'.

This week we are going for more of a watery focus with Ships and Boats and things that float. Please remember to pack extra clothes for the children just incase we get a little bit wet.



The children will be enjoying our daily Phonics sessions and as you know with this topic we have been asking parents to help their children fill their phonics pots with transport items linked to our three areas of Transport. This week we are focusing on Ships and Boats and things that float. Please remember, the items need to fit inside your child's Phonics tubs.

We will of course be sharing our set of Richard Scarry books and our library books outside if the weather is kind to us on our Literacy Bench in the front garden.

The children will be enjoying creating their own Hovercrafts, Water Rockets, Junk Modelling and making good use of our water play resources in the front gardens. We even plan to fit in a bit of sneaky 'Transport' inspired cookie baking if we have time. Could our 'Preschool Children' please return their 'Transport Colouring Projects' this week so they can all get their certificates.



## Why Are We Carrying Out Observations On Your Child? continued...

Looking, listening and noting is important because it helps us to:

- Get to know a child better and develop positive relationships with children & their parents
- Plan appropriate play and learning experiences based on the children's interests and needs, and identify any concerns about a child's development
- Further develop our understanding of a child's development
- Develop a systematic & routine approach to using observations
- Use assessment to plan the next steps in a child's developmental progress and regularly review our approach

So how do we do observations? A member of staff can often be freed up for short periods of time to observe the children and make notes. But we are still continually supervising and caring for the children.

We often take lots of photos to help with our observations. By regularly taking pictures of the children doing activities we will be able to build up a great record of their development. We use photographs in sequence and linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage to highlight achievements and plan our next steps

Once children have got used to being photographed and have stopped

'performing' for the camera, it can be an excellent way of recording a child's development and sharing the information with parents via our weekly blog. We then use the photographs to support our written development records in each child's Learning Journal.

We have a supply of small notebooks and when your child says or does something interesting we note it down. Later these notes can be added your child's Learning Journal to help build up our development record.

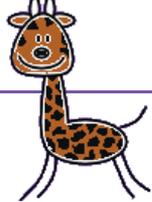
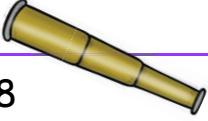
Our Learning Journals are a great way of recording a child's learning and development. They are easy to put together and are an excellent tool for planning future activities for the children, based on their interests and abilities.

We love it when parents send in information from home via your child's My Favourite Things Pages in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklets or a Wow Card as this is usually brilliant evidence which helps us to work in partnership together to support your child's ongoing Learning and Development.

If you would like to view your child's Learning Journal you are very welcome to do so. Just pop a note in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet and we can make an appointment for you to pop in and have a look at it together with your child's Key Worker.



## Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Summer Term (2)

Transport				
15		16		17
				
				
22		23		24
				
<b>May - NO Early Years Funding next week for term-time only children</b>				
29 Spring Bank Holiday Closed	30	31		1
				
Rumble in the Jungle				
5	6	7		8
				
12		13	14	15
				
19	20	21		22
				
26	27		28	29
				
The Lighthouse Keeper				
3		4	5	6
				
10	11	12	13	14
				
Friday 14th July is the end of the Summer Term for our 'Term Time Only', funded children. If you would like your TTO child to attend between Monday 17th July and Friday 25th August, then full fees will apply at £4.55 per hour. Places must be booked and confirmed by Friday 14th July.				
17	18	19	20	21
				
24	25	26	27	28
				