



# Grafton Childcare

The Large Family - Monday 4th February - Friday 1st March 2019

## Annual Review of Fees

Sadly the bad news is that the 3 & 4 Year Old Funding has been frozen at its current £4.02 per hour for yet another year and at least until April 2020. Which means that with the 4.9% annual increases in Living Wage rates, the 1% increase in Employers Work Place Pension Contributions planned for 1st April and rises in food and general running costs for the Early Years sector we shall be increasing our hourly fees from their current £4.75 per hour to £5.00 per hour from the 1st April 2019. For all children who attend Grafton Childcare. This is just 25p per hour, we have worked really hard to keep this increase as low as possible, please read our separate Funding & Fees newsletter for full details.



## The Large Family

When the series of Large Family stories written by Jill Murphy was first published, the hilarious, loveable antics of the Large Family in Five Minutes' Peace rang delightfully, wonderfully true with many families and over thirty years on, they are still a perennial; family favourite and an essential series for parents, nurseries and of course children to share together.

You can pick up the whole collection from The Book People for only £7.99 if you would like to add them to your home library.

We shall be enjoying:-

- Five Minutes' Peace
- A Quiet Night In
- A Piece of Cake
- Mr Large in Charge
- All In One Piece



We will be expanding this topic by adding an

assortment of natural loose parts which will be used as open ended invitations to play for the children to expand on the stories and create their own adventures for the children Laura, Lester, Luke, The Baby and of course Mr and Mrs Large.

We have managed to gather together a whole herd of wooden and marble Elephants, from Charity Shops, Car Boots and some of our very generous Grandparents! So we will have plenty for the children to share when they are acting out lots of the stories during the coming month. Keep your eyes peeled on Facebook and Instagram for our Large Family inspired mischievous shenanigans.



### Viewing Your Child's Learning Journal

If you would like to arrange to come and view your child's Learning Journal and have a chat with your child's Key Worker or Buddy about how your child is progressing, then you are very welcome to come in for a chat about our planned 'Next Steps' for your child, you were given a copy of these in January. You could also arrange to come in and discuss any developmental concerns, issues or worries you may have in confidence with Lara, Natasha or Zoe. Or you could simply come in for a chat about exactly what all the little codes we use sometimes in your child's Daily Diary are all about!

**Lara** is available on Wednesdays and Fridays between 5 - 6 pm, **Natasha** is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5 - 6 pm and **Zoe** is available on Mondays and Wednesdays between 5 - 6 pm.

If you would like to arrange to come in just pop a note into your child's Communication Booklet or Daily Diary and we will arrange an evening for you to do so.

### Grafton's Mobile Number

Have you popped our Mobile Number into your phone book yet?

# 07598827463

Grafton's mobile is only used when we are out and about with the children, so that we can contact parents if we need to for any reason. The rest of the time it is switched off so please use our landline at all other times.

## School & Grafton Childcare's Admissions for 2019/20

The school admissions for 2019/20 have now closed and parents will be informed formally around the middle of April 2019 about which school their child has been offered a place. This Autumn we have twelve four year olds due to start school, which is our highest amount of leavers for a number of years.

As soon as our parents know where their child will be going in September it would be very useful if you could let us know. This is because Lara will be preparing our 'Transition Reports' to send to all of the Reception Teachers and some of the schools will be arranging visits to Grafton to meet the children who will be joining them in September.

We are always very sad to see them leave us, although not all of them will as we do still provide Holiday Childcare up until the 31st August following their 5th birthday. We are mindful of the fact that we do need to start thinking about how we shall fill these spaces in August/September. So as ever if you have any friends or family who might be looking for Flexible Family Based Childcare please give a shout out for us here at Grafton Childcare. Remember as a thank you we give recommenders a £20 Pizza Cafe Voucher once the children start with us, as they say recommendation is always the best form of Advertising.



## Warm Waterproof Winter Coats

Well we think you will agree Winter is certainly here! With this in mind please may we remind all of our parents that we do go outside **every single day** with the children as part of our core continuous provision.

So it is vital that all parents remember to send a suitable **Warm Waterproof Winter Coat** for their child to wear whilst outside in the rain, snow and wind. Otherwise they will very quickly get wet and cold and won't enjoy or wish to take part in the high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans we have planned for them, thank you for your support.

### Extra Sessions in $\frac{1}{2}$ Term

Would you like to book any extra sessions between the 18th February and 22nd February and take advantage of our, 'Half-Term Special' of only £30 for one days Quality Childcare, for a max of 10 hours.

These must be extra days on top of your normal contracted days and booked and paid for in advance.

We have a limited number of days available during February Half-term, so book now to guarantee any Extra Spring Half-term Sessions for your child.

### Bread, Bagel & Brioche Bags

Please could you save up you empty Bread, Bagel and Brioche bags and send them into nursery.

So that we can recycle them by using them to send home any wet or soiled clothing which may need laundering at home.

They are just the right size and are easy to store here at Grafton Childcare.



## Get Your 30 Hours Code for Next Term

Parent's please

remember you **MUST** renew your codes by 28th February for the Summer Term. Also if your child turns 3 between the 1st January 2019 and the 31st March 2019 then you need to be applying **NOW** for your funding code which Grafton Childcare will need to validate before the 31st March to confirm your eligibility to 30 Hours Funding for the Summer Term 2019. Check out our 2019 Funding Newsletter for more details, which will be sent out to all of our families this week.

### Fridays - Childcare Limited Special Offer

We have a couple of places available on **Fridays for our 2, 3 and 4 year olds until April 2019**. For the next two months we have a limited offer available for our parents who may wish to book an extra days childcare on top of their normal contracted days.

Perhaps you want to fit in some decorating.

Maybe you want to book yourself some driving lessons.

Possibly your employer has asked you to work some extra Fridays to complete a project.

Maybe you need to build that IKEA wardrobe!

Whatever the reason if you would like to book one of our one off temporary Friday spaces during the next two months the costs will be as follows:-

Sessions between 7 am - 12 noon, 8 am - 1 pm, 12 noon - 5 pm or 1 pm - 6 pm. for £15 giving a saving of £8.75

Or a days childcare booked between 8 am - 4 pm for £24, giving a saving of £14!

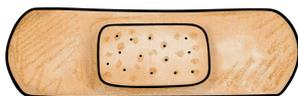
If you would like to book one of our available spaces email Denise to request a space for your 2, 3 or 4 year old.

We don't have any spaces available for any under 2's.

All extra spaces must be paid for in advance.

# Childcare Choices

## It's The Little Things



Here at Grafton Childcare we are constantly reviewing the equipment and resources we use here and this month our focus has fallen on our plasters!

We have managed to source the first vegan & organic bamboo plasters for sale in the UK! Patch make these plasters with soft organic bamboo fibre, with coconut oil gauze enriched with aloe vera extract to help repair and soothe burns, blisters and minor abrasions.

Free from irritating chemicals and containing ingredients historically proven to soothe symptoms whilst promoting wound recovery, they should not leave any red marks or rashes and are suitable for even the most sensitive of our children's skin types.

These plasters contain organic bamboo gauze which acts as an oxygen agent to assist with the skins natural healing process.

They have even thought about the packaging which is made from recycled cardboard, with the individual wrappers keeping the plasters sterile being eco-friendly too (one side is made from rice paper and the other side is biodegradable paper), lastly the tabs that cover the plaster itself (the sticky bit!) are made from rice paper too! Plastic-free, hypoallergenic, breathable, biodegradable, Eco friendly and completely compostable!

## Thank You Very Much

As always we are very grateful for bits and bobs which our parents pass onto us to make use of here at Grafton Childcare. In no particular order we would like to thank Noah, Frank, Alfie, Theo, Rebecca, Charlie, Emily, Evelyn, Felicity, Freddie and Ella for the following much appreciated items:- Lots of of Shirt Cardboard and Tissue Paper, Wooden Bunges, Duplo, Baby Books, Wooden Owls, Assorted Toys, Orchard Toys Games and Puzzles, Wooden Peg Puzzles, Wooden Storage Trays & Boxes, Pebbles, Marble Elephants and Photos of Elephants, Dried Orange Slices and Large Strong Cardboard Tubes.

## The Curiosity Approach™ Invitations & Provocations

an explanation of the differences.

In this months newsletter we will try to offer some clarity about the difference between invitations to play and provocations. We need to thank Steph and Lyndsey co-founders of the Curiosity Approach™ who wrote the original article from which this piece has been adapted.

In simple terms an invitation is the spark that ignites curious minds, the provocation is the fan that fuels the fire and keeps the interest alive, through thought provoking opportunities - allowing children to lead the way through inquiry discovery and investigation. They have control of where the learning goes.

Here at Grafton Childcare when our resources are set up with care and attention they should encourage our children to settle to play and engage for longer. It is incredible to watch our children become fully and deeply absorbed in a play space invited into their own magical land of imagination awe and wonder. This is where a provocation and an invitation to learning can overlap and become entwined as new interests are ignited and new opportunities to learn, think and explore are sparked in our children.

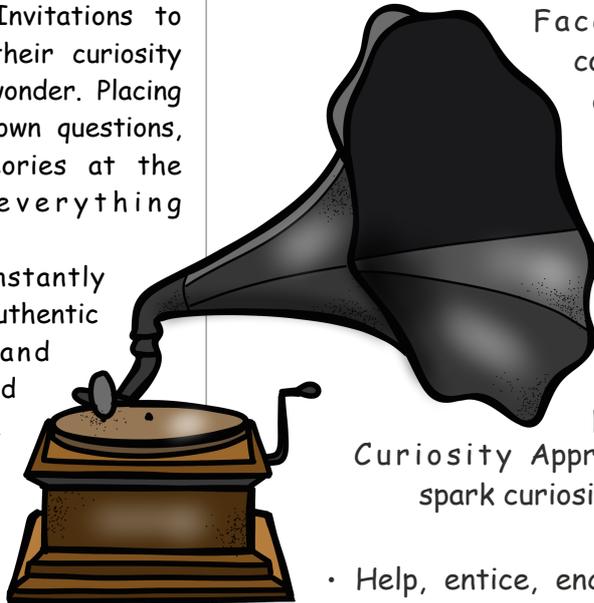


### Our Role as Mindful Educators

Here at Grafton Childcare we believe that inquiry based learning offers our children many opportunities to learn and develop (Invitations to Play), led by their curiosity and sense of wonder. Placing the children's own questions, ideas and theories at the centre of everything (Provocations).

- We are constantly looking for authentic resources and open-ended materials, which will allow our children opportunities to become inquisitive curious and engaged.

- We listen to our children, what are they chatting about.
- We encourage our children to become collaborators as they discover new knowledge and ideas and thinking.
- We are mindful when to step back, allowing our children time and space to play uninterrupted.
- We set up provocations in attractive and inviting ways - pockets of awe, wonder, curiosity and magic.
- Our staff know that we play a vital role, to prepare, engage, support and document the open ended experiences we offer here at Grafton Childcare.
- Lastly by providing quality teaching and learning opportunities for our children.

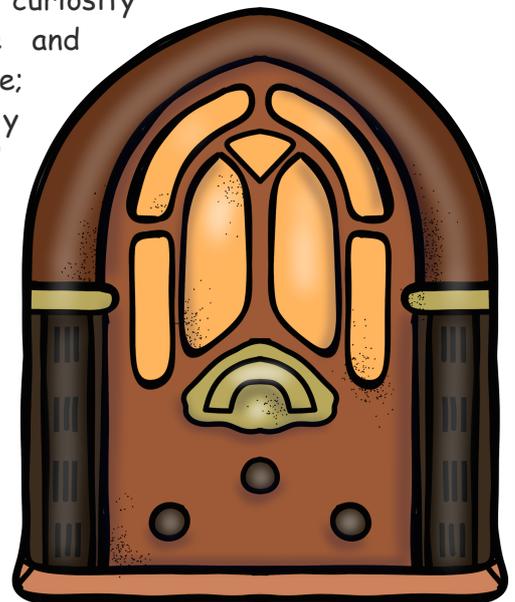


We are constantly encouraging our staff to become passionate researchers in their own professional development, to seek out ideas for setting up activities and those gentle invites to come and play which you will often see depicted on our daily Instagram and Facebook posts. Our staff are constantly looking to find out what our children already know and are interested in, parents can let us know about their child's current fascinations via their, 'My Favourite Things' pages, have you filled one out for January yet it's not to late?

Here at Grafton Childcare and as part of our commitment to gain our Curiosity Approach Accreditation our mission is to spark curiosity and let the children lead the way.

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- Help, entice, encourage our children to learn new skills;
- Invite our children to handle tools and equipment;
- Introduce our children to new concepts, ideas or events;
- Allow them opportunities to explore new textures, smells and sensory experiences;
- Entice our children to come and explore, discover and learn new skills;
- To draw on previous experiences, learning styles and practice what they have already learned;
- To become researchers in their own play;
- Providing the ingredients for future learning;
- To light A SPARK!;
- Providing pockets of curiosity allowing our children time and space to tinker and explore;
- Providing carefully selected natural and authentic resources, arranged to entice and invite our children to come and explore;
- Magic, awe and wonder and providing lots of opportunities to be curious.



Provocations are.....

The questions we ask, the materials we put out. We ourselves can even act as a provocation. It's a deliberate and thoughtful decision by our team to extend the ideas of our children. To provide, prepare and set up materials and resources based on our children's thoughts, ideas, thinking and interests.

Our team may set up a **provocation** following on from a child's initial line of enquiry and especially their initial interest. It isn't about what we want to provide. Our provocations need to reflect on our children's interests or learning styles, it extends learning that has previously happened. We are mindful that we need to keep the interest alive with further opportunities for our children to explore and learn.

Our **provocations** should be the fan that fuels the fire and keeps the interest burning bright. We are led by the children and they are leading the way to extend their own knowledge, we are just facilitating this be building on previous experiences and those all-important interests.

Here at Grafton Childcare we are striving to create beautiful spaces and activities with thoughtful purpose, leaving room for our children to extend and play. We understand that if our team create too much that there could be no room for our children to add or extend their levels of learning and critical thinking.

What should an invitation to Learning look Like?



When setting out our activities our staff try to design invitations that allow our children to become curious and inquisitive, to become deeply engaged following their own natural style of schematic learning. Our invitations to

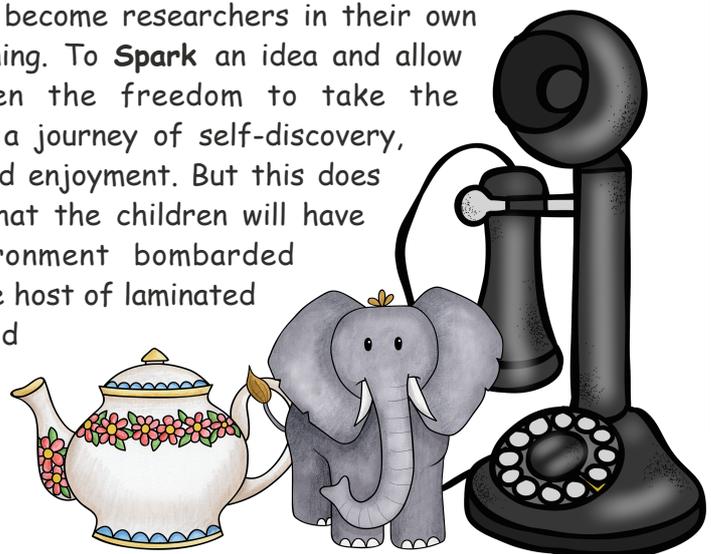
learning may mix and combine a wide range of resources from natural materials, loose parts, plants, wooden rings or slices etc. Together with recycled materials, mirrors, authentic resources. Allowing our children, the freedom to explore and discover.

Our **Invitations to Learning** may have a specific purpose in mind, an area of development that one of our Nursery Nurses would like to observe or a task they would like to introduce? E.g. An **Invitation** related to maths, science, understanding the world or sorting, art and design etc. Our mindful staff will also ensure books fiction and non fiction are added to each area to extend and enhance the learning opportunities.

Carefully selected books can compliment the **Invitation** and if we feel so inclined a short prompt written on our small chalk boards. This gives our children the opportunity to explore literacy which now has meaning allowing them to actively research and handle books etc. Without it over stimulating the children and becoming lost as visual noise.

We are mindful to remember that although we may have an initial idea of how our children 'may' engage and explore these invitations. It is important we allow our children the freedom, time and space to investigate and engage with the invitations at their own pace and following their own ideas!

Sometimes we may carefully position photographs to give reference to what could be achieved, allowing our children to become researchers in their own active learning. To **Spark** an idea and allow our children the freedom to take the learning on a journey of self-discovery, curiosity and enjoyment. But this does not mean that the children will have their environment bombarded with a whole host of laminated labels and laminated signs.



## Spring Term Phonics Pots

Please remember that all items must fit inside your child's Phonics Pot with the lid on, to help ensure we do not lose any of your items at Nursery thank you.

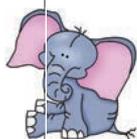
**January's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by The Owl Babies

- Wk. 1 - 2nd January - 'Q' for Quill/Feather
- Wk. 2 - 7th January - 'R' for Red Chested Owl
- Wk. 3 - 14th January - 'S' for Snowy Owl
- Wk. 4 - 21st January - 'T' for Tawny Owl
- Wk. 5 - 28th January - 'U' for Ural Owl



**February's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by The Large Family

- Wk. 6 - 4th February - 'V' for Very Large
- Wk. 7 - 11th February - 'W' for Wrinkled Skin
- Wk. 8 - 18th February - 'X' for EXtremely Large!
- Wk. 9 - 25th February - 'Y' for Young/Calf



**March's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by Nursery Rhymes

- Wk. 10 - 4th March - 'Z' for Zoom, Zoom Zoom
- Wk. 11 - 11th March - 'A' for A Sailer went to Sea.
- Wk. 12 - 18th March - 'B' for Baa Baa Black Sheep
- Wk. 13 - 25th March - 'C' for Cock a Doodle Do!



**April's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by The Squash & Squeeze

- Wk. 14 - 1st April - 'D' for Julia Donaldson!
- Wk. 15 - 8th April - 'E' for Egg
- Wk. 16 - 15th April - **Closed Reopen Tuesday 23rd**
- Wk. 17 - 23rd April - 'F' for Farmyard
- Wk. 18 - 29th April - 'G' for Goat



# Spring Term's out & about around Newton

**Bakers & Decoy Woodland Experiences; Newton Abbot Library, Jacksons Fishmongers; Hoopers Family Butchers & Ashfords Greengrocers.**

Here at Grafton Childcare we like to get involved with activities and trips out and about in our local community and know that our parents love that we take our children out and about regularly.

Below we have provided a list of just a few of the **confirmed** dates when we plan on getting out and about around Newton Abbot, with our children, this term.

These outings are predominantly planned with our Preschool Children in mind, so our three and four years olds. However weather permitting we hope to take our under threes as well. The decision to include our under three's will be made on trip by trip basis.

- 4th January - Bradley Woods Woodland Experience
- 8th January - Newton Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 18th January - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- 23rd January - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 29th January - Bradley Woods Woodland Experience
- 7th February - Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 13th February - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- 22nd February - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 28th February - Bradley Woods Woodland Experience
- 5th March - Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 15th March - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- 20th March - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 26th March - Spring Term Adventure!
- 4th April - Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 10th April - Decoy Park Woodland Experience

**Monday 15th April - Monday 22nd April Grafton Childcare will be closed for Easter and will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April for the Summer Term.**

- 26th April - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 2nd May - Bakers Woods Woodland Experience

Parents please remember to always send your children equipped with suitable warm waterproof coats, shoes and or welly boots (inc. long welly socks) for our regular educational excursions to Decoy and Bakers Parks. So they can enjoy our high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans to the full.

## Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Spring Term (1)

Mon. 24th December - Tue. 1st January Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Christmas Holiday and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 for the beginning of our Spring Term. 2019				
<b>Owl Babies</b>				
Closed	Closed	2 January 2019	3	4 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>
7 <small>Yoga</small>	8 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	9 	10	11
14 <small>Yoga</small>	15	16	17	18 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>
21 <small>Yoga</small>	22	23 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>	24	25
28 <small>Yoga</small>	29 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	30	31 	1 February
<b>The Large Family</b>				
4 <small>Yoga</small>	5	6	7 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	8 
11 <small>Yoga</small>	12 	13 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>	14	15
$\frac{1}{2}$ term for term time only kids 18th - 22nd February 2019				
18 <small>Yoga</small>	19	20	21	22 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>
25 	26	27	28 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	1 March
<b>Nursery Rhymes</b>				
4 <small>Yoga</small>	5 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	6	7 	8
11 <small>Yoga</small> 	12	13	14	15 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>
18 <small>Yoga</small>	19	20 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>	21	22
25 <small>Yoga</small>	26 <small>Spring Term Adventure!</small> 	27	28	29
<b>A Squash and a Squeeze</b>				
1 April <small>Yoga</small>	2	3	4 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	5 
8 <small>Yoga</small>	9 	10 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>	11	12
Mon. 15th April - Mon. 22nd April Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Easter Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 for the beginning of our Summer Term. 2019				
22 Closed	23	24	25	26 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>
29	30	1 May	2 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	3 
<b>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</b>				
6 Closed	7 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	8 	9	10

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