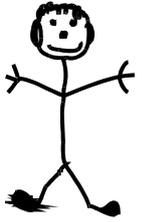


FIRST STEP PLAYGROUP

The Scout Hut, Parkhall Road, Somersham, Cambridgeshire PE28 3HE
Tel: 07855 035212 (8am to 3pm) email@firststepplaygroup.co.uk



1st September 2016

Welcome back! We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. Below is an overview of the changes and new experiences for this half term at playgroup.

Autumn 1 2016

We have a few changes to the structure of the day. Unfortunately we will no longer be doing 'show and tell'. Over the past few months it did not give the purposeful learning outcomes we strive for and children's toys occasionally went missing, so instead we are adapting it to 'showing a model or piece of work the children have created during the session.' This still ensures children have the opportunity to develop their self confidence in front of a group and may inspire other children to create masterpieces to show.

We are also implementing 'story of the week.' Every week one child will have the opportunity to choose a playgroup story book to share with their peers. This can be read as a group at carpet time and staff can create activities linked to the story to extend the child's experiences.

Bradley Bear, our playgroup 'take home bear' will be joining children again this year. Last year he only went home with the next steps, but this year, as we are starting earlier he will be able to go home with all children. Please ensure he is returned within a week to allow every child to care for him.

We are not following any specific themes this term, the activities will be directed from the individual interests of the children. Next Steps will have the opportunity to visit the local community and doing cooking this term but the children will be asked their preferences first and we will create a 'mind map of activities' during their first session.

We will also be continuing with the 'Child in Focus' planning as this proved to be successful last term. This is where staff will select a child to follow and support for a week extending their activities. Focus planning sheets will be sent home the week before your child is in focus to gain an overview of their current interests and special events, please ensure these are returned as it also enhances the partnership working with parents and playgroup. During the focus week the teachable moments and experiences will be documented. Your child will also be supported during 'non focus weeks' but the outcomes may not be documented in the same way.

We are also looking to move over to electronic learning journals. All new children will start on an electronic journal. Parents of existing children, please speak to your child's key person to discuss whether or not to move to electronic journals or stay with the paper folders.

Clothing

Please ensure that your child's coat and jumpers are named, some of our younger children may not recognise their own belongings and clothes can easily become mixed up. If you would like to order name labels we do have some leaflets for Easy2Name. Please also be reminded we have t-shirts, sweatshirts and fleece jackets to purchase if you would like your child to wear a 'uniform'.

Illness

If your child is not attending playgroup for any reason please inform us on 07855 035212.

A reminder of our 'Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious' policy, if your child has had sickness or diarrhoea please ensure they are excluded from playgroup for 48 hours after the last bout.

If you have had to administer Calpol or similar to your child before playgroup, please consider whether or not they are well enough to attend the session.

Superstar box

Please continue to use our superstar box. This provides us with valuable information we might not see in the setting, and of course your child will get a sticker and celebration from the group.

Term Dates

05.09.16 Start of New Term

21.10.16 End of half term

31.10.16 Return to playgroup

16.12.16 End of Term (please note earlier closure than primary school).