

Stepping Stones Pre-School

Welcome back...

We hope you all had a lovely Easter break, it's lovely having the children back with us!



Staff news...

Lai has now started with us in her new post as Deputy Manager, we are so excited to have Lai on board, please help us to make her feel welcome!

I have some exciting news to share with you all... I am expecting a baby in September! So far, things are going well with the pregnancy, and my husband & I are not finding out the sex of the baby... So I will keep you posted when the little one decides to make an appearance! I will begin my maternity leave at the end of the academic year. As we make plans for our new home in September we will be recruiting for maternity cover, but I know that the staff team will keep Stepping Stones running smoothly in my absence.



Updates...

The local authority have shared some information that you may be interested in and find useful:

Me too & Co...

[Me too & Co](#) provides a supportive and active community for children with disabilities and additional needs. It is a one-stop shop providing therapies and creative activities for children and practical and emotional support for parents and carers. We have been asked to share with families of children who we think would benefit from their support. Please check it out and let us know what you think!

Childcare Choices...

The government has launched its [Childcare Choices](#) website, where parents can access information on the government's new childcare offers. We have been asked to share the website with our parents.



New childcare directory from PACEY...

[SearchChildcare](#), is a new location-based childcare finder.

All types of registered childcare providers; childminders, nurseries and nannies can advertise for free. It is also free for parents to search and free for parents and providers to send and receive secure messages.



Family Link...

Would you like to make a big difference to a child with a disability and their family?

Can you spare one weekend a month?

Family Link is a short breaks service which supports children and young people with disabilities by providing overnight short breaks at the home of an approved Family Link Carer.

The Family Link Service is currently recruiting carers. You do not need formal qualifications, but previous experience of caring for children with disabilities is essential. We welcome applications from single people and couples from all different backgrounds and with or without children living at home.

For more information contact Katie Morello on 020 8547 6566.

Thank you/reminders & requests

Tissues...

Please remember to bring in some boxes of tissues for us ☺. We ran out completely this week, so if you can keep us stocked up we (and the children) would be most grateful!!

Sunny Weather...

Hopefully soon the sun will have it's hat on! To ensure we are keeping children safe in the sun, please ensure you apply sun cream before coming to Stepping Stones. Please keep a labelled bottle of sun cream in your child's bag and a labelled sun hat.

Shoes...

Please ensure that your child is wearing closed toe shoes to Pre-School, this is for health & safety reasons; we don't want little toes being squashed by things that get dropped and we need to make sure we can run, jump, hop with the appropriate footwear to help us do so!



Snack...

We would like snack time to be as healthy as possible for the children . There are surprising amounts of salt and sugar in snacks aimed at children, this website has some useful tips to make healthy sugar and salt swaps for your children's snacks: <http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/change-for-life.aspx>

When snacks with added salt and sugar are brought in for the children, e.g. crisps, Organix sticks, yoghurt covered raisins, we will not serve them at snack time, so please do not bring them in, and leave them for your enjoyment outside of Stepping Stones.

In addition, as part of Michelle's planning for her Key Children, she has identified that children need some support around being able to describe the texture of things, and also being able to express their preferences.

To support the children with this, Michelle has asked that families bring in some unusual or exotic fruits for snack time to support the children with this learning. We would particularly love to try fruits that you enjoy at home from other countries and cultures that we may not have heard of! Thanks for your support with this.



Dates for your diary...

Wednesday 10th May: Group & Individual photographs:

Individual & Group photo's will be taken by Jackie Frost. If Wednesday is not your child's usual day then please bring them in at 9.30am for the AM session group photo or 1pm for the PM session group photo, you can then have their individual photograph taken afterwards. You are welcome to bring siblings in for photographs; children with siblings will have their photograph when you arrive to drop off your child, or straight after the group photo. Please ensure you arrive promptly (no later than 9.10am or 12.45pm) for Monday's session as the photographer will be setting up in the annexe.

Workshop...

Would you like to know more about Early Reading & Writing...?

- How children develop language?
- What the Speaking & Listening and Reading & Writing early learning goals are?
- How you can support your child's development from being a non-talker right the way through to reading and writing at school?

Then come to our workshop on Monday 15th May at 7.30pm. The attendance flyer is attached to this newsletter.

Inset day...

Wednesday 24th May we are closed for both sessions for an inset day.

Half term...

We are closed for half term 30th May - 2nd June.

Our last day of term is Wednesday 13th July. (Term dates for next academic year will be emailed to you in the coming weeks).

What we're learning at Stepping Stones...

Personal, Social and Emotional development	Communication & Language
<p>We have been focussing on helping children to learn to share by playing small group games.</p> <p> Encourage your child to share with you at home, for example, encourage them to let you have a turn with their favourite toy.</p>	<p>With our chick experience the children have been learning lots of new vocabulary (and so have the staff!).</p> <p>Introduce new words to your children's vocabulary... it's a 'glorious' day!</p>
Physical development	Literacy
<p>We have been practicing building up children's fine motor skills which supports children when learning to write, using scissors and play dough.</p> <p> Try drawing pictures with different fingers (left and right hand) with soap whilst in the bath.</p>	<p>We are focussing on helping children with learning to write their name, and recognising the initial letter sounds.</p> <p>Learn the phonic alphabet (Link to learning phonics), the support your child with recognising sounds.</p>
Mathematics	Understanding the world
<p>We are working on recognising numerals.</p> <p> Help your child learn the numbers that are significant to you, e.g. your house number, numbers of windows. <i>Check out our display in the annexe Chloe has made following on from some recent Maths training she attended.</i></p>	<p>We are encouraging children to understand growth and decay by planting seeds.</p> <p>Look at the changes outside... blossom on the trees, new spring and summer flowers coming out.</p>
Expressive Arts and Design	<p> = Ideas for learning you can extend at home</p>
<p>We are looking at different occupations and engaging in role play, the children have particularly enjoyed the garden centre shop!</p> <p> Let your child pay for your shopping in shops, and talk to them about change you receive etc. so that they can relive this in role play.</p>	

Best wishes, Sarah & the Stepping Stones Team