



Galston Early Childhood Centre



November 2024 Newsletter!

Playroom News



During October, the children in the Rainbow room have started regular visits to the large outdoor space, enjoyed parent stay and play sessions and taken part in parent/child bookbug sessions. The children have been focusing on taking turns, independence skills in getting ready for outside and understanding how to keep themselves safe.

Children in the Butterfly room, continue to have opportunities to visit the outdoor areas in both the courtyard and larger garden area daily. Children have explored a variety of sensory experiences as part of Halloween and have focused on rules to keep themselves safe. Children in all areas have also been exploring number recognition through songs, rhyme and games.



Both rooms have had daily opportunities to explore nature, physical and risky play in either the courtyard or large outdoor area. The outdoor team have invited a second group of parents to enjoy an outdoor stay and play session. The team have also introduced Woodland Wednesdays, where small groups of pre-school children visit the woodland area for a 4 week programme. All pre-school children will have the opportunity to visit the woods with parents/carers being notified ahead of their child's planned 4 week programme.

Powerdown Challenge!



As part of the power down challenge, the eco-group have made notices to remind everyone to turn off lights when they are not in the room and shared suggestions in the October newsletter how to use pumpkins within recipes.

The eco-group have been awarded the mound section of the make Mr.Windy Challenge! Well done!

Outdoor Day - 7th November

The full Centre will be enjoying an outdoor day on Thursday 7th November. The children will have exciting learning experiences throughout the day based in our large garden area. We kindly request that children come dressed appropriately for the day with waterproof clothing and boots.



The outdoor day will also support the eco-groups power down challenge, where the lights and screens throughout the centre will be turned off.

Children in Need

The Centre will be supporting Children in Need's "SPOTacular" on Friday 15th November. Children are welcome to come into the Centre wearing anything with spots on. Parents/carers who wish to donate to this charity can follow the link below:



[Donate to BBC Children in Need](#)

Food Waste - Dinnae Forget your Caddie Challenge!



In East Ayrshire, 75% of our food waste is being put in our general rubbish bins rather than our food waste bins. Dinnae forget your caddie is a programme to encourage everyone to learn about the importance of recycling our food waste.

Participation in this programme will encourage all of our young people and families to:

- Learn about the importance of recycling our food waste (click [here](#) to find out more)
- Learn how to recycle food waste here in East Ayrshire - click [here](#) to find out more
- Name your family's kerbside caddy - let us know the name of your caddy [here](#)
- Decorate your Kerbside caddy and write your chosen name on the outside. You can share your caddy design on our 'Caddy Gallery' by emailing a photo along with your child/children's forenames and the name of the centre they attend to eacleangreenlaward@eastayrshire.org.uk
- Recycle your food waste at home, present your caddy for collection each week and be automatically entered into our 'Favourite Caddy of the Month' draw. Each month, between October and May, our recycling crews will select their favourite designed caddy to win a £50 East Ayrshire gift card - click [here](#) to find out when your caddy collection day is.
- Complete *Cairey's Challenge* by finding a *Caddy Buddy*. Can you encourage or support 1 more person to recycle their food waste and present their caddy for collection each week? Tell us about your buddy [here](#)

Clothing Grant

Applications are re-opening on 4 November for the early years clothing grant for parents of children who will be starting their 3yr old place in January 2025 (born between 1 September 2021 and 31 December 2021). £50 is available per child age 3 and 4 years whose circumstances meet the criteria for footwear and clothing grants. Children who are starting in April will have an opportunity to apply for this in February 2025. **The application will remain open until 15th November 2024.** Click on the link below to apply.

[Early years clothing grant · East Ayrshire Council \(east-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Photographer within the Centre



The photographer will be in the Centre on Wednesday 6th November. Children with a sibling at Galston Primary school, will have their picture taken on either the Monday or Tuesday with their sibling and this will be managed by the school. If you would like to have a photograph taken with either a younger sibling or a child who does not attend Galston PS, the photographer will be available from 8am on the Wednesday morning. If you would like to attend please inform your child's keyworker. We would like remind parents / carers that this applies only for the photographer, usual session times apply.

Flu Immunisations

Parents/Carers should have received and returned the information and consent forms associated with the Flu Vaccinations for 2 - 5 year olds. The health care team will be in the Centre on **Wednesday 13th November** to provide the vaccinations to children who have consent forms returned.

Childsmile: Fluoride Varnish Application

The Scottish Government's national Childsmile programme offers preventative dental interventions (Fluoride Varnish application for children in nursery and primary schools, in order to reduce the amount of dental decay in Scottish children. Childsmile will be in the Centre to apply the fluoride varnish on Tuesday 19th November for children with consenting parents.



Butterfly Room Parent Meetings

Parent meetings will be held by keyworkers in the butterfly room during the week of 18th November. Keyworkers will have booking sheets available on their registers at the end the day.

Rainbow Room Book bug Sessions



Parents invited to the first block of Rainbow Room bookbug sessions will continue on Thursday 7th November after a break for the stay and play sessions. We look forward to seeing everyone there to enjoy a bookbug session with their child. The session will be held between 9:15 and 10am.

Breakfast with Santa

The parent committee are organising the opportunity for all children to have breakfast with Santa with one parent/carer. More information will be shared soon!



Reuse and Recycle: Pre-loved Christmas Jumpers

It is not long now until we start thinking about Christmas! We recognise that this time of year can be expensive and as part of our eco-journey to support re-using and recycling we would like to set up a pre-loved Christmas jumper rail in the ECC.

If your child has outgrown last year's Christmas jumper, please bring it into the Centre so that another child can enjoy wearing it and your child may choose another jumper to enjoy for this year!



Parent Committee - Fundraising



Race Night

The parent committee are planning a Race Night in February to raise funds for the ECC and to plan a great end of year trip for the kids. More details to follow. This promises to be a great night! We are looking for raffle prizes/bottles/donations to support our event. Please hand any donations in to the ECC or our parent committee chairperson, Amanda Dick. Thank you ☺

Rhyme of the Month

Rhymes, songs and stories support early literacy development. We are focusing on learning a rhyme each month and aim to achieve the majority of children being able to recite the rhyme and use Makaton.

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water;
Jack fell down and broke his
crown,
And Jill came
tumbling
after



Makaton Link:

Please follow the link to see the Makaton for this.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cw6JOME8qtA&list=PLDZkNdIBNNeKmW7FWBQ2I8a15wmwP_bha&index=10

East Ayrshire
Speech and Language Therapy
Download our App NHS Ayrshire and Arran by using the QR codes

Our helpline is open every
MONDAY from 9:30 - 11:30am
and **THURSDAY** from 2 - 4pm

To speak with an experienced
Speech and Language Therapist,
phone us on: **07980919654**

We offer a virtual drop in service
every **TUESDAY** from 3-6pm and
FRIDAY from 9:30am - 12:30pm

Please text **07812519298** if you
would like to attend a drop in
session.

@AyrshireSLT @weepeoplechat
Speech and language therapy in
East Ayrshire Makaton Ayrshire
Facebook page

November top tip

**Be careful when asking questions.
Don't ask too many!**



For every question you ask, try to remember two comments. This will keep the conversation more balanced and encourage more turns. Comments are the best way for children to learn new words.

Dates for the Diary

November	
Wed 6 th	Photographer for Individual and sibling photographs (Rainbow and Butterfly Rooms)
Thurs 7 th	Full Centre Outdoor Day!
Wed 13 th	Pre-school Flu Vaccines (Consent forms to be completed)
Friday 15 th	Children in Need - Wear something spotty. (Both Rooms) (TBC)
Tues 19 th	Childsmile - Fluoride Varnish (Consent forms to be completed)
From Mon 25 th	Christmas jumper swap - bring in pre-loved jumpers for others to enjoy.
Friday 30 th	St. Andrews Celebrations (wear some blue or tartan to enjoy the day)
December	
	Breakfast with Santa (Invitations with specific date will be sent out soon).
Thurs 5 th	Outdoor Stay and Play for small group of children (invitations to be sent out) Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (both rooms)
Tues 10 th	3:15 stay and play session for children starting in January 25
Fri 20 th	Last day of term (term time children)
Tues 24 th	ECC closes at 2pm for full year children. No afternoon session.
January 2025	
Mon 6 th	All children return for Spring Term

Learning Journals

All children within both rooms should have targets to work on in their next steps section of the learning journal. Observations posted will refer to progress in working towards achieving their next step. General information, in the form of stories will also be included on the journals to share events, reminders and the newsletter. If you require any support in accessing your child's learning journal please let your child's keyworker know. All observations will be published weekly on Friday at 6pm.

Contact us!



Phone: You can contact the Office on: 01563 820360

Email: Head of Centre: dawn.waide@eastayrshire.org.uk

Depute Manager: elaine.bowden@eastayrshire.org.uk

You can also contact your child's keyworker directly through the Learning Journals.