



Galston Early Childhood Centre



February 2025 Newsletter!

Playroom News

We have loved getting to meet and know all of the children in both rooms who have started with us in January!

The children in the rainbow room (2-3) have the opportunity to explore everyday objects, such as scissors, droppers, and mirrors to see how they work. Children have had the opportunity to manipulate toys to explore cause and effect. During outdoor play, the children are beginning to have opportunities to develop their physical skills and coordination using the climbing frame, slide and scuttle bug tricycles.

The children in the Butterfly room (3-5) have been exploring the ice during the colder days and explored painting on ice and breaking it into different sized pieces. Outside they have been talking about the things which animals may need during the winter months, such as hedgehog hotels and making bird feeders. Children have been discussing space, including what we can see in the night sky and been given the opportunity to explore the different planets in space and space travel.

Early Learning and Childcare - Registration weeks (14th - 28th February)



Applications for funded early learning and childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds in East Ayrshire will open on **Friday 14th February** and close at **midnight on the 28th February 2025**

- If your child currently attends the 2 year old room, you **must** apply on-line for a funded place in the 3 -5 room at your preferred Early Learning and Childcare Centre. Click on the link below to apply.

If your child currently attends the 3-5 room and are returning in August for their 4 year old place you should either:

- If no change of session needed and you want to maintain your current sessions, you do not need to reapply on-line. Please return the slip of the letter you will receive to a member of the management team.
- If you wish to change your existing session, we request that you complete the on-line application form by following the link below.

<https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/NurserySchoolPlaces/PreSchoolAdmissions/Eligibility/When-and-where-to-apply.aspx>

Eco-schools



As part of our commitment towards our Eco-schools journey we have arranged a RAG bag collection for **18th February 25**. Clothing collected will be reused and the Centre will receive money which can be put towards resources and trips.

We value your support with this project to support children to understand recycling and re-using unwanted items as we aim to reduce waste.

Parent Committee - Fundraising



Race Night

Not long now until the parent committee's race night on Saturday 8th February! If you would like to buy tickets, please see Amanda Dick (Rudy's mum). Raffle tickets are on sale throughout the week at the Centre.

Spring Bulbs (not daffodils)

The outdoor team would like to request springtime bulbs to be donated to the Centre, although preferably not daffodil bulbs. The team plan to plant springtime bulbs with the children which supports understanding in early level science, of the conditions which are required for growth.



Plastic bottle donation

The outdoor team are challenging themselves to build an eco-green house for the large garden. To achieve this we need lots of 2 litre plastic bottles to make the greenhouse. We would be very grateful if 2 Litre plastic bottles could be donated to the Centre over the next few weeks.

Many thanks

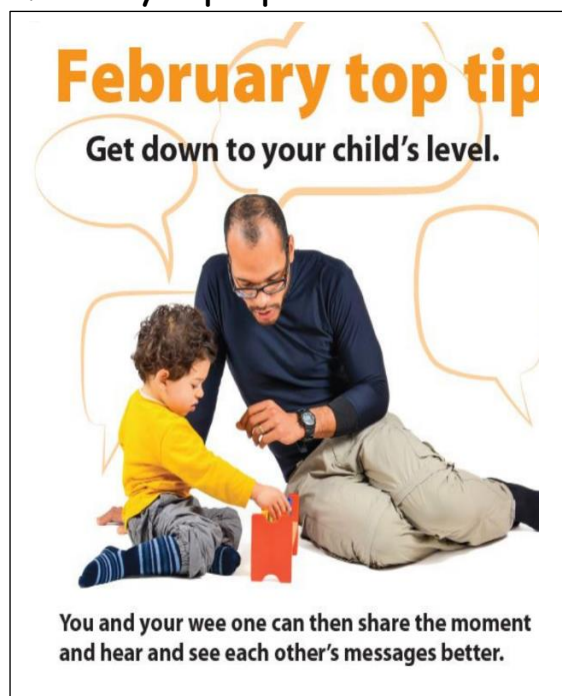
The outdoor and Eco-group teams ☺



Rhyme of the Month



February Top Tip



Galston ECC Face Book Page



For regular updates please follow the Centre's face book page called Galston Early Childhood Centre or click on the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1JuwntoctE/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Using Makaton to support communication.

Click on the link below for the tune to this month's Rhyme of the month and to see the Makaton signs to support.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=21L2D08faSE&list=PLDZkNdIBNNekmW7FWBQ2I8a15wmwP_bha&index=11

Do you live or work in Ayrshire and have concerns about a child's speech, language or communication.



We are offering an expanded Helpline Service until further notice

For advice and guidance from an experienced Speech and Language Therapist, please call the Helpline for your area.

East Ayrshire	07980919654
Monday	9.30am - 11.30am
Thursday	2pm - 4pm
North Ayrshire	07833233942
Wednesday	2pm - 4pm
Thursday	2pm - 4pm
South Ayrshire	07833095374
Tuesday	2pm - 4pm
Thursday	10am - 12pm

Working together to achieve the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran

Follow us on Twitter @weepeoplechat
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SpeechandLanguageTherapyinEastAyrshire/
Follow us on Instagram: [@AyrshireSLT](https://www.instagram.com/AyrshireSLT) (@weepeoplechat)



Autism Support Ayrshire

Online Parent/Carers Workshop

Open to all parent/carers living in Ayrshire who care for autistic young people up to age 16. The workshop is over an 8 week period.

The topics we cover are:

- What is Autism
- Sensory differences
- Distressed Behaviour

@ email : Autismsupportayrshire@nas.org.uk



COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS GROUP SESSIONS

Parental Employability Support Fund
Dad's Group Session at Dean Castle with the Countryside Rangers

Dates / Information of the day :

12th February 2025 :
River/Pond Dipping (wellies aren't required but are advised)

19th February 2025 :
Orienteering

26th February 2025 :
Bushcraft Skills

If interested, contact Mark (SL33) - 07788354234

Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Saturday 8 th February	Parent Committee Fundraiser - Race Night
Monday 10 th February	Term time Holiday
Tuesday 11 th February	In-Service Day - Centre closed to all children
Wednesday 12 th February	Centre re-opens for all children.
Friday 14 th - Friday 28 th (midnight) February	Early learning and childcare - registration fortnight Information will be shared nearer the time
Monday 7 th - Thursday 17 th April	Spring Break - Term time holiday
Friday 18 th April	Good Friday - ECC closed to all children
Monday 21 st April	Easter Monday - ECC closed to all children
Tuesday 22 nd April	Centre re-opens for all children for Summer Term

Learning Journals

Parents Zone: Many of you will have noticed the learning journals are requesting parents to join the Parent Zone. This is just for parents with children at school and does not apply for children attending the Early Childhood Centre.

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.