



Riccarton ECC Newsletter - September 2022

Welcome!

A warm welcome to all the children and their families. We are amazed at how well the children have settled into the centre. Our main priority is to support their emotional wellbeing and we aim to build positive trusting relationships with them, and you, over the coming weeks and months. When they first start nursery, or after a long holiday, it can take them time to settle and therefore, it is important that we build up their time in the centre gradually. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns. We will keep you regularly updated through our APP and twitter page @riccartonC.

Outdoor Learning

The children are encouraged to access the outdoor play area every day and in all weathers. We ask that you provide a waterproof suit and welly boots if you can and we will store these in the children's individual boxes for easy access each day.

Sharing Children's Learning

Each child has a unique online learning journal and we aim to keep you updated with their learning within the centre through published stories, observations, videos and a regular slideshow. We really encourage parents to share the learning or events that happen at home or outwith the centre as this gives us great insight to your child's special interests and improves partnership working. This month we will be focusing on personal hygiene and, in particular, hand washing which I know you will all be promoting at home. Please click on the link to access the Handy Andy song they have been learning in the centre: [Handy Andy Handwashing Song](#)

Parental Engagement & Community Partnership

At Riccarton ECC, we aim to ensure we have excellent channels of communication with our parents. We work in close partnership with you all and external agencies to offer activities and experiences that will benefit all our children and their families.

There is a noticeboard located at each drop off outdoor area which is regularly updated with lunch time choices, news and events. We communicate regularly through our APP and Learning Journals, giving ideas of play experiences to try out at home. We will send out a newsletter at the beginning of every month so you can plan for events that are happening. Each week we celebrate the children's successes in the centre by having a "Star Of The Week".

Lorraine Skeoch is our Community Practitioner, her role is to provide support and advice on parenting - for example, routines in the home, behaviour management, fussy eating or toilet training. She will be available to talk outside the nursery (back gate) every Friday if you have a query or concern. She plans to host fun family sessions throughout the year such as Book Bug, Play at Home & Peer Massage. These sessions have always been popular in the past.

Photographer Visit - Tuesday 6th September

We have invited Scott, a photographer from Photo Studio in Ayr to come in and take individual photos of the children which you will have the opportunity to purchase.





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Play & Stay Sessions

You will shortly receive an invite to come to the centre and play for an hour with your child. These sessions will run from Tuesday 20th September until Thursday 29th September. Each group will be given a different morning in order we can keep numbers within guidelines and social distancing in place.

Personal Plans & Setting Targets

Thank you all for completing your child's personal plan. The staff will set smart targets for your child specific to their stage of development and their interests, they will discuss their thoughts with you at the Stay & Play sessions in order an agreement can be made on the best targets for your child within the areas of Health & Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy.

Fundraising

In order we can provide a wide range of activities and events, we have regular fundraising throughout the year. We need your help and are currently looking for parents to be part of an informal group to assist us in organising fundraising events. The group is *extremely* informal, we meet up only a few times a year over coffee and cake. If you would like to help us, please let a member of staff know.

Improvement Plan

Each year we devise a Standards & Quality Report and Improvement Plan which is submitted to the authority. These highlight our achievements from the past year and identified targets for improvement. These can be accessed through our GLOW page by copying the following web address into your browser: [Riccarton ECC GLOW](#)

Communication & Language News

Some of our children within the centre have very little verbal language and to support them to communicate, we will be introducing Makaton Sign Language to all the children. Each week we will introduce a new sign. Over the next couple of weeks we will introduce the signs for "how are you?".

Nursery Rhyme of the month is:

Baa Baa Black Sheep

Promoting Health & Wellbeing



The children have been learning about mutual respect through our Golden Rules. They have been learning that we are kind to each other and help to tidy up. We are working on a UNICEF programme to promote children's rights within the centre. These underpin all we do. Each month, we will look at one of the rights from UN conventions on the rights of the child.

**The right of the month is: Article 31
I have the right to play.**

Mid Term Holiday

The nursery will be closed for a long weekend on Friday 16th September and Monday 19th September. Children return on Tuesday 20th September.

