



## Ladybirds Playgroup and Toddlers

### February Update

Newsletter 2/10

#### WELCOME:

To Kate Bartlett who is standing in for Sarah whilst she is on her holiday throughout February. Some of you may know Kate from her past association with Ladybirds, she ran the toddler group for quite a while and has been on the staff bank for years. I worked with Kate at Mosterton Playgroup many years ago and I look forward to working with her again.

NEW! I have introduced a dedicated Lunch Club register as a necessity as Laurie will never be able to read my writing in the main register. I would be most grateful if all adults could make sure that they or a member of staff has ticked their child's name on the register each day if they will be staying for lunch.

After half term we will be introducing a circle time at the start of each session. This will commence at 9.30 and will be an important time to introduce the children to the play equipment on offer for the day, this will mean that if we have for instance changed the home corner from a shop to a hospital that they know and we can also ask them how they would like to play there and what other equipment they would like to add to the experience on subsequent days. It will also give us an opportunity to introduce new faces and alert the children to any changes in their day which might otherwise be unsettling. In order for your child not to miss out on this important part of the day, and to avoid interrupting other children, it would be very much appreciated if all children have arrived and been settled in before this time. We would like to extend an invitation to all parents and carers to join in at this time if they would like, but we understand how busy many of you are and there is no obligation to attend. The time between 9.15 AND 9.30 is when staff members are available for speaking to parents informally. If you have concerns or anything of a sensitive nature to discuss then please make it known and we are happy to make a mutually convenient time to talk in private.

We would appreciate a call if you are running late to pick up your children at the end of sessions and lunch club. We know that sometimes the unforeseen happens and we have all been unavoidably delayed occasionally; we certainly do not want parents to rush unnecessarily and risk having an accident, but if you are not able to arrive on time it helps to allay children's fears. Children can become anxious if they are the only child left playing while everyone else has lunch at the end of the session or when we need to pack away all the equipment at 1.00 when lunch club ends.

We are in the process of setting up a key person system which means a member of staff will be responsible for liaising with a family, leading the record keeping and making formal and informal assessments of your child's progress to date. We will be posting more information about this and letting you know who will be the key person responsible for your child in a new parent information area to be set up shortly.

THANKS: To all of you who took the time to fill in their questionnaire, it was very helpful and the kind comments gratefully received. Suggestions for improvements will be included in an Action Plan for the development of Ladybirds which will also be displayed for your information shortly!

To all of you for being understanding through the snow and heating closures. Thanks also for remembering to provide warm outdoor clothes. We adults might prefer to huddle in by the heaters but all the children enjoy being outside for as long as they are comfortable, and we try to make sure that if anyone is showing signs of becoming too cold that we all return inside.

HELP: We would appreciate donations of cereal boxes and packets for junk modelling activities.

We have been requested your permission to use photos of your children from the visit to Plant life at Ryewater, not everyone filled in the permission slip in December please would do so if you have not already.

We can save costs on paper and printing if you have email facilities at home and are happy to receive your information this way. A sample of the most recent letter will be on display and they will be numbered throughout the year so you know if one has not arrived and you have missed out.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Half term week commences Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Table Top Sale - Saturday 6 March, 2pm

Frock Swap - Saturday 27 March, 7.30pm

I would / would not be happy to receive all newsletters and other communication via e.mail.

My e.mail address is .....

I do / do not give consent for Plantlife Conservation Charity to use photos of my child for publicity purposes.

In print and /or on the internet.

Signed.....