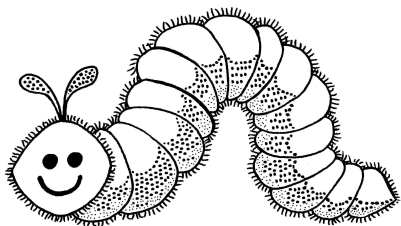


NEWSLETTER



Caterpillar Pre-School

Battle Baptist Church

Registered Charity: Life with Hope Trust 1134288

Summer Term

April 2010

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break.

Our theme this term

This term we will be focusing on discovering the natural environment around us and the learning opportunities that arise. For example, the life cycle of seeds. We will be planting seeds: some to take home and some to watch grow in our garden. We will be going out into the community to the Cherry Gardens and the allotments to see what is happening, noticing plants, flowers, birds and hunting for bugs etc.

Parent consultations

From the week commencing 4th May for 3 weeks we will be arranging Parent Consultations in key groups. Your child's main key person will make an appointment with you in the next few days.

Tell us by ten

Please could you let us know by 10 o'clock if, for any reason, your child is not going to be at pre-school. Our direct telephone number is 774997.

Uniform and suitable clothing

We still have plenty of T-shirts and sweatshirts at £4.50 & £7.50 each. **Please label all items of clothing!** As summer is approaching please make sure that your child comes to pre-school wearing suitable footwear. Loose fitting slip-on shoes or flip-flop style sandals are not safe. Sunhats need to be clearly named and sun cream applied before school.

Snack time

At snack time we like the children to share fruit and it would be good if your child could bring in one piece of fruit each week. This should be brought to the first session they attend in the week. In addition to the fruit we provide milk or water for them to drink and offer a selection of other snacks during the course of the week.

Curly the Caterpillar

Curly is our resident caterpillar. If you have not met him yet, he likes to travel! Sometimes he just travels to your home and sometimes he goes on a long journey to another country! He likes to keep a diary of his travels – and even the odd photograph or drawing of where he's been or what he did. If he visits your house, please could you help him fill in his travel diary – thank you!

Time keeping

Thank you to all of you who bring and collect your children on time. If you ever encounter a problem and will be delayed in picking your child up, please telephone us to let us know. We can then explain this to your child and reassure them. This will be more paramount over the next 4 weeks or so as the road works in the High Street will affect us all.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if you are more than 10 minutes late we will be obliged to charge you for the additional time in caring for your child based on the hourly fee of £3.50.

Book sharing

Weekly reading books enable your child to share stories at home with you and your family. Please return them to this to us the following week so we can send a different book home. Comments made about the books in the Book Sharing Record are noted and useful as a contribution towards their "Learning Journeys."

Introduction of 15 hours funding

Thank you to all of you who completed and returned your questionnaires. The feedback was very helpful and your comments noted. The vast majority of parents and carers are happy with our proposals. The management committee have agreed that from September 2010 we will have two 3 hour sessions during the day and change the opening and closing times of the pre-school to 9 am and 3 pm. More details will follow.

“Chatterbox”

This group is open to all parents and carers of pre-school children and meets on a Friday morning during term time between 9.15 & 10.15am in the Youth Room upstairs. If you are not sure where this is – please ask us!

Caterpillar Pre-school

Term Dates 2010-11

School Year 09/10

Term 5

Tuesday 20th April 2010 - Friday 28th May 2010

Term 6

Tuesday 8th June 2010 - Friday 23rd July 2010

School Year 10/11

Term 1

Tuesday 7th September 2010 – Friday 22nd October 2010

Term 2

Tuesday 2nd November 2010 – Friday 17th December 2010

Term 3

Wednesday 5th January 2011 – Friday 18th February 2011

Term 4

Tuesday 1st March 2011 - Friday 8th April 2011

Term 5

Tuesday 26th April 2011 - Friday 27th May 2011

Term 6

Tuesday 7th June 2011 - Friday 22nd July 2011

Kelly & the staff team

27.04.10

A Springtime thought!

I love this time of year. Although I cannot pretend to be a real garden expert I do like growing a few vegetables and watching the flowers and shrubs grow. Even cutting the grass can be a pleasure as once the edges are trimmed it can look really good! However, I think I really become an expert when I have the opportunity to watch all those TV programmes on gardening. All through the year they are able to enthuse me and tell me what I can grow, how to do it and the very best way to get success. Even better are all those books that guide me gently through the year, month by month, with top tips – and I don't even have to go outside because the book is full of great photographs of other peoples gardens. The joke is that there are so many ways to do gardening, everyone is different, yet ultimately it is all out of our control. The miracle of new life, of growth and even death is not in my hands.

This Spring I know how much the children will be fascinated by watching insects, by examining the detail of a flower, or simply enjoying playing outdoors in the sunshine. Staff in the Caterpillar Preschool really enjoy the wonder and amazement that the children show as they see the beauty of God's creation. We don't take for granted that you, the parents and carers of the children, choose us to share this privilege of revealing the wonder of God's world. If you have any questions, comments or compliments then I would be delighted to pass them on to Kelly, Hilary, Jo G, Jo B, Ellen, Joy, Ann or the Management Committee.

With thanks to everyone involved – including yourselves!

John Southam.

Chairman of the Management Committee
& Church Manager.