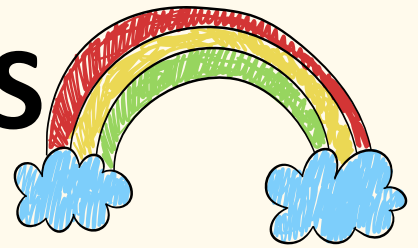


# TWECHAR EARLY YEARS CENTRE



0141 955 2334 [eyc@twechar.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:eyc@twechar.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

DATE: Oct/Nov 2024

## WELCOME

Hello!

It's October already, we can't believe it! It has been a busy month for us here at Twechar EYC.

We have welcomed parents and families in to join us this month for some Stay 'n' Play sessions, this was a great success and we loved having you all.

We have also been celebrating your children's success as we had our parent's evening, we love sharing your children's learning and progress with you. Thank you to all parents and families for giving us your time and continued support. We also sadly said goodbye to Kristina this month as she moves on to pastures new, we will miss her lots but wish her all the best in her new role. A huge welcome to Sarah, our new Clerical Assistant.

## LENDING LIBRARY

You will find our lending library at the front door of the Nursery. Please feel free to choose a book with your child to take home and sign the book in/out. Every child has their own lending library bag and inside of this you will find a loyalty card, each time the children read a book from our lending library, they will receive a sticker. Once you have collected 5 stickers you earn a prize.

Happy Reading!

## TWECHAR CLOTHING SWAP

Our Eco committee have started a Twechar EYC clothes swap rail in our cloak room. If you have any old clothes in good condition that you would like to donate, please hang these on our rail. These clothes can then be taken and given a new home.

## TREAT FUND

When you contribute £2 per week to the Nursery Treat Fund, we are incredibly grateful as this enables us to hold various parties throughout the year (Halloween and Easter, etc), to buy snacks and treats, enables us to have a graduation celebration and buy the children their school ties and a book, to go on nursery trips, have fun days and to have a Christmas party with a special visitor and a gift for every child for Christmas. Thank you for your continued support with this!

We now have a nursery bank account for the Nursery Treat Fund. The details for this are as follows:

**Account Name:** *Twechar Nursery Class Fund*

**Sort Code:** *82-69-13*

**Account Number:** *50419187*

When sending money to this account, please include the following reference:

**"TF – CHILDS FIRST INITIAL AND LAST NAME"**

(Example Reference): **TF – J Smith**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please let us know if you have changed your phone number or home address recently. It is very important we have working contact details in case your child becomes unwell or we need to contact you urgently.

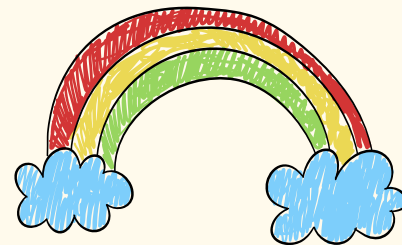
## SAFETY FIRST

If someone else is collecting your child, please let us know and we can add them to the list of authorized people to do so. It is important that whoever collects your child, has the password given at enrolment and I.D.

Please see the table as you enter the main cloakroom and sign your child in and out at the start and end of each session.

**Remember to close the black gates in the playground as you enter and exit.**

# TWECHAR EARLY YEARS CENTRE



DATE: Oct/Nov 2024

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15<sup>th</sup> November: Children In Need *(Please wear your pyjamas)*

18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November: Book Week Scotland

4<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Sing-a-long and Fayre

12<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day

18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Party Day

*A reminder that the nursery is closed from the 25<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January.*

**\*Please see full list of Dates for your Diary attached\***

## POLICY REVIEW

We will be sending out a policy alongside the newsletter every month. This month we have attached our "Assessment" policy for you to review. If there is anything you think should be added, altered or removed from this policy or if you have any questions or comments about this, please let us know.

## CUPPA AND A CATCH UP

We would like to invite all parents, families and carers to our Cuppa and a Catch up. We'd love to see you all there!

### **CALLING ALL NURSERY PARENTS!**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
A CUPPA AND A CHAT

FRIDAYS 9.30AM TILL  
10.30AM

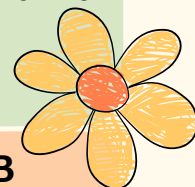
IN THE CENTRE

## CLOTHING

We kindly ask that belongings are clearly labelled to ensure items can be found with ease. To ensure your child is comfortable, soft shoes should be worn indoors. We ask that these shoes are not slippers as they can become loose easily and/or children can slide in them. We play outdoors in all weathers, so we recommend clothing for all seasons. As we are getting into the colder seasons, we recommend a warm jacket and a warm hat are provided. We often explore the local area, and wellies and a jacket are essential throughout the year.

## LOST PROPERTY

Please check the lost property box in the foyer if your child is missing any clothing.



## NO BREAKFAST CLUB

For your information, we do not have a breakfast club at Nursery. Children should have their breakfast before attending.

## TIME-KEEPING

Please be aware of your child's session times as this can have an impact on the running of the Nursery day.

## BIRTHDAY CAKES

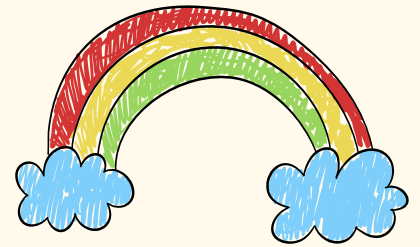
You may hand a shop bought cake in for your child's birthday, if you wish. This must not contain nuts (*traces are OK*).

## ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent, can parents/carers please ensure that they contact the nursery office by **9.30am/1.30pm**. If we do not hear from you by these times, we will begin to follow the absence procedure.



# TWECHAR EARLY YEARS CENTRE



DATE: Oct/Nov 2024

## OUR LEARNING

We have been exploring a wide variety of learning experiences this month. In the Story Corner, we have been focusing on our Author of The Month which was Sue Hendra, we have been reading a variety of books written by Sue Hendra and exploring experiences centered around these. Our favorites were Supertato and Norman with the Silly Shell. We created our own vegetable heroes and made shells for our slugs. We have also been exploring a rhyme of the week each week, which the children choose. Our rhyme sheets linking to this can be found at the nursery entrance, please help yourselves to a copy of this. In the Home Corner, we have been looking after the dolls and learning all of the skills required to take care of a baby. The children have been talking a lot about our local community so we have created a "window" in the Home Corner with some of Twechar's common sightings in it for the children, to spark discussion. In the Construction area, we have been focusing on shape, exploring a range of shapes using a variety of different materials and resources. In the Creative area, we have been exploring our senses, we created a sensory wall to explore a variety of different textures, materials and sights. In the Malleable area we have been exploring emotions, feelings and all about me. We made our own faces using play-doh and discussed that we are all unique.

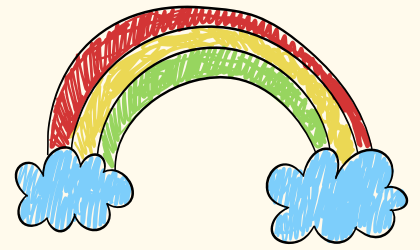


## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Outdoors, we have been learning about the season of Autumn. We sent home Autumn treasure bags and collected Autumn treasures with our families, bringing our findings back to nursery to share what we had found. We then used our Autumn treasures during lots of different experiences, such as making transient art self portraits, conker rolling in paint and leaf printing in clay. We have also shown an interest in fairies whilst outdoors and have been exploring a variety of experiences surrounding this interest, this has included going on fairy hunts in the glen and making our own fairy doors. We have been caring for our plants in the garden, harvesting our carrots, potatoes and strawberries. We have enjoyed eating these and using these in recipes. At our outdoor learning groups, we have been going on treasure hunts where we each get our own treasure chest to fill with terrific treasures including leaves, sticks and stones.



# TWECHAR EARLY YEARS CENTRE



DATE: Oct/Nov 2024

## THANK YOU

We would like to say a big thank you to our local fire station who came to visit us during the month with their fire engine. This was a huge interest of the children's and they absolutely loved getting a turn in the big fire engine, we even got to use the hose!

We would also like to thank Tesco Craigmarloch for their donation of treats for our Halloween Party, our children had an amazing day and all looked incredible in their costumes.

Thank you to all of our parents and families who purchased raffle tickets for our Halloween hamper, our winner was Kelly! We hope you love your prize! We raised £102 towards nursery funds, this will go towards providing the best nursery experience for your children.

Thank you to those who attended our McMillan Coffee Morning for cake and a cuppa. We raised a total of £259.30 between the Primary School and Early Years Centre.



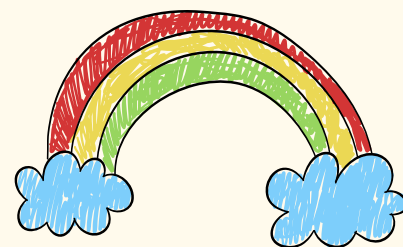
## ADDITIONAL INFO

We have introduced a new "Accident at Home" form, can we ask kindly that if your child has fallen or hurt themselves at home that you take some time to fill one of these out.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** We are beginning to collect things for our Christmas hampers, you can donate these directly to nursery staff (Please ask a staff member for more information about which items we need for this). We will be selling raffle tickets this month and the winners of this will be announced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December at our Christmas sing-a-long and fayre.



# TWECHAR EARLY YEARS CENTRE



DATE: Oct/Nov 2024

## LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOCUS

### Literacy

We have introduced a new writing programme called Foundations of Writing which aims to develop children's fine motor skills and mark making. Both of these are important foundations for learning to formally write. Our initial focus has been on "taking a line for a walk" in order to highlight that a line shows movement, events and the passage of time.

We will be moving onto the process of drawing, particularly drawing detailed pictures of ourselves.



The children have been taking part in weekly reading sessions where they listen to a story, known as a shared text. The children have been developing their listening skills, learning about important vocabulary such as Author and Illustrator and the mechanics of reading (how to hold a book, where to start reading, text has meaning and words are read from top to bottom, left to right). There has also been a focus on encouraging children to talk about whether they liked or disliked the story, giving reasons for their opinions.

### Numeracy & Maths

The children have been developing their Early Number Sense, particularly focusing on counting forwards and backwards, identifying the number after and before, and numeral identification.

We have been exploring and investigating 2D shapes, looking at what they are called and beginning to identify some of their properties. We have been learning about "Tessellation" which is how shapes fit together without any gap



## OTHER AREAS

### Health & Wellbeing

Rosie the Dog has been helping the children to learn about their rights and responsibilities. We have focused on the right to be safe, the right to make friends, the right to learn and the right to play. The responsibilities link to these rights and the children having been learning about how to keep themselves and others safe, how to be kind to their friends and adults and how to look after all the resources.

We have been using the story of The Colour Monster to help the children identify and talk about their feelings. They have engaged well with the story and are encouraged to take part in a daily "check in" where they post their picture in one of the jars to show how they are feeling.



## Dates For Your Diary Twechar Early Years Centre

Please note: Dates may be subject to change.

Date	Event
<b>September 2024</b>	
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	McMillan Coffee morning
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Nursery Closed
30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Nursery Closed
<b>October 2024</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024	Stay and Play Week
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Start of 4 week block of outdoor family learning
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Nursery Closed
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	Curriculum Evening (more information to follow)
30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Halloween Party
<b>November 2024</b>	
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Children in Need
18 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024	Book Week Scotland
<b>December 2024</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Christmas sing-a-long and Fayre
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Christmas Party Day
25 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	Nursery Closed
<b>January 2025</b>	
1-2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025	Nursery Closed
<b>February 2025</b>	
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Nursery Closed
<b>March 2025</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Stay and Play Week
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	World Book Day
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Start of 4 week block of outdoor family learning
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	Comic Relief
<b>April 2025</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Autism Awareness Week
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Easter Party
18 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Nursery Closed
<b>May 2025</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Nursery Closed
19 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Parent Consultation Week
23 <sup>rd</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Nursery Closed
TBC	Garden Party
<b>June 2025</b>	
11 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Sports Day (subject to change)
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Graduation (More information to follow)
TBC	Twechar Beach Day
<b>July 2025</b>	
31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Pre-Schoolers last day at nursery



# Twechar Early Years Centre

## Assessment Policy



### RATIONALE

Assessment is an ongoing process throughout Twechar Early Years Centre. During the daily routines staff listen, watch and interact with a child or group of children. Wherever possible staff should find ways of involving parents, carers and children in the assessment process. This process provides useful information about children's learning and development which can be shared with all partners as appropriate e.g. other staff, parents/carers, the child him/herself and external agencies. This information is then used to form the basis of any future planning.

### Aim

The aim of Twechar Early Years Centre is to provide all partners with appropriate and accurate information regarding children's learning and development. This information ensures judgements, choices and decisions about learning inform planning with a view to securing children's progress.

### Outcomes

- Staff, children and parents/carers will participate in formative assessment through scrap books, care plan updates and parent meetings.
- Staff, children and parents/carers will be involved in the continuous process of gathering evidence of learning and tracking information of children's progress.
- Staff provide children and parents/carers with timely feedback about strengths and development needs.
- Assessment information is used to inform planning for next steps.
- Parents/carers and receiving primary schools will be provided with information gathered through transition reporting, based on assessment.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### Senior Leadership team

- Monitor the quality of provision and learning opportunities.
- Review the accuracy of tracking information.
- Evaluate the quality of scrapbook observations.
- Ensure staff are fully aware of and implement current local authority policies and national guidelines on assessment.
- Provide advice and training for Early Years Centre staff.
- Put in place arrangements for children to discuss their learning regularly with a member of staff.

#### Early Years Teacher

- Create support, core and challenge groups and assess progress across Literacy and Numeracy termly.
- On an ongoing basis identify gaps in learning and next steps; share significant observations with Practitioners.
- Hold tracking meetings with Practitioners 3 times a year to discuss, record and track children's progress. Support the identification of Next Steps as required.
- Support and mentor Practitioners.
- Support in the evaluation and monitoring of planning and scrapbook observations.
- Participate in report writing and parent/carers meetings.

#### Practitioners

- Record and track children's progress.
- Participate in report writing and parents/carers meetings.
- Play an active role in gathering evidence of learning and sharing this with parents/carers and children to help inform next steps.
- Show an awareness of and implement current local authority policies and national guidelines.

## RESOURCES

*Realising the Ambition: Being Me (2020)*

*Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Children and Families (2010)*

*Being Me Under 3*

*Up, up and away! Inclusive Learning and Collaborative Working*

*Curriculum for Excellence, Building the Curriculum 5*

*Curriculum for Excellence (2005)*

## CROSS-REFERENCES:

How Good Is our Early Learning and Childcare	2.2, 2.3, 3.2
Health and Social Care Standards	1,2,3,4,5
In our Centre responsibility for implementing this	Staff
created:	August 2022
Updated:	September 2024
Review date:	August 2027

## ASSESSMENT ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

In Twechar Early Years Centre children, parents/carers and staff participate in ongoing assessment using a variety of methods.

### General Guidelines

1. Planning, evaluating, reporting, recording, staff interaction and reflection are all interrelated aspects of the assessment process.
2. The Centre curriculum is planned responsively and takes consideration of children's interests and choice.
3. The Centre plans and assesses children's needs using National Guidelines. For children under 3 years, these include Being me under Three (EDC document based on Realising the Ambition: Being Me (2020), and Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Children and Families (2010). Staff at the Centre recognise the importance of the earliest months and years in a child's development.
4. Staff also use guidelines within Curriculum for Excellence (2005), when planning for children aged 3-5 years. Learning experiences are well planned to meet the expectations within the experiences and outcomes of the early level and pay particular attention to the 3 overarching themes of Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing.
5. The assessment process begins as soon as a child starts in the Centre. An Enrolment Pack and Care Plan are completed with the parent/carer, with support from the Key Worker. These documents are used to "build a picture" of a child's stage of development and learning.
6. Staff use a variety of observation strategies and recording methods including written observations, samples of children's work and photographic evidence.
7. Staff observe children throughout their time in the Centre including during indoor and outdoor play, in planned learning experiences and during social interactions such as meal times.
8. Children are observed as individual learners, as well as how they interact as part of a group.
9. Observations of individual children's learning, both planned and spontaneous, are recorded using scrap books and through area floorbooks. All staff contribute to the recording of individual children's progress through observations.
10. Staff within the Centre also communicate verbally with each other, to share information on the child's interests and their current stage of development and learning e.g. daily, staff meetings, planning meetings.
11. It should be emphasised that children's progress is noted in relation to their own strengths and development needs. Children are also consulted on and encouraged to talk about their learning journey.
12. Parents/carers are invited to contribute to the assessment and planning process. In consultation with the parent/carer and child (as appropriate), next steps are discussed and agreed 4 times a year. These next steps cover Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy. Parents/carers also agree on a next step to be worked on at home. Parent/carer meetings are held to discuss children's learning and progress, twice a year or more frequently if required.

### **Children with Additional Support Needs:**

In some cases, staff observations of children's learning may suggest that the child would benefit from the support of external agencies, such as Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists or the Educational Psychology Service. In these instances, staff refer to the Centre Senior Management Team, who will discuss this with the parents/carers. Parents/carers may also highlight an area of concern in relation to their own child. With parental agreement, arrangements will be made for a request for assistance to be submitted requesting additional support from the relevant agency or service.

Depending on the area of concern identified, a child may require a Universal Support Plan or Targeted Action Plan. These are prepared and managed by the leadership team and key worker. These plans include a summary of the child's progress and developmental needs. Individual targets and strategies/additional resources required to meet these are recorded and reviewed regularly in discussion with the parents/carers. Where a child has a Targeted Support Plan, Team Around the Child (TAC) Meetings are held to discuss the child's progress with parents/carers, Centre staff and representatives of the external agencies involved. These meetings are used to assess the child's development and plan future strategies.