

The 'Butterfly' Group at Busy Bees

From September 2014, your child will be joining our Butterfly group at Busy Bees. This is for children who are in their final year before school and is an opportunity for them to begin to take part in more structured activities with Bev and Jodie. When the older and younger children play together and interact at Busy Bees, it is beneficial for their development. Younger children learn by watching and interacting with the older children and the older children reinforce their own knowledge and increase their understanding when playing with those younger than themselves. However, there are times when it is beneficial for them to have time away to participate in activities more suited to their age and stage of development.

Your child will participate in daily Phonics sessions using the Read Write Inc scheme. Bev leads the sessions and will focus on one sound each week as well as refreshing children's knowledge of sounds from previous weeks. The children will begin to learn to recognise and name letters by their sound and 'air write' them. As they grow in confidence, they will begin to write the letter on paper and whiteboards and eventually blend them together to form words. We would appreciate your support with this so will encourage you to send in an item for the 'sound of the week.' Please ask if you would like more information on the Read Write Inc scheme.

At present, children in the Butterfly group participate in PE sessions every Thursday afternoon. Last term, we extended this by also offering a session on a Monday morning. There is a possibility that our PE day may change from September so we will keep you informed. To develop children's independence, they are encouraged to change into their PE Kit so we would appreciate you supplying the following in a named bag:

- T-shirt
- Leggings or Joggers
- Non Lace up Trainers or Pumps
- A drink in a suitable non-spill drinks bottle

* As our sessions often take place outside, please be mindful of what you pack eg joggers for Winter and shorts for Sumer.

Additionally, at story time, the children are grouped by age as they begin to be more able to listen to longer stories. They will be encouraged to join in with refrains and rhymes, think about how the story might end and talk about the characters within the story. After story time, we reflect on the session and children are given an opportunity to talk about what they enjoyed at Busy Bees and what they would like to do next time. This information from the children is used for our planning to ensure we provide activities and experiences your child enjoys and is motivated by. When children are happy and want to take part, they are more likely to learn and develop.

Children in the Butterfly Group who are in on a Tuesday afternoon also get to take part in our Gardening Club which is led by Fay and Michelle. These sessions take place on our allotment or in our Wildflower Garden which is just off the Town Trail. The Gardening Club is in addition to the gardening activities which all children get to take part in during their time at Busy Bees.

From September 2014, we will begin offering Forest School sessions, starting with those in the Butterfly group. Once the sessions are established, Fay will begin to lead separate sessions for the younger children.

All of the activities the Butterfly group take part in build on all seven areas of Learning and Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

As with all children, we appreciate parent's input into their child's Learning Journey. Whilst we take photos, make observations and include examples of the children's work, it is always useful when parents contribute their own thoughts and comments. Please speak to your child's Key Person if you have any questions about your child's learning and development during their time at Busy Bees.