



March 2017

## Lift off to Language

As some of you are aware Claire and Beccy attended a training session on communication and language and piloted the 'Lift off to Language' program -

The sessions are an opportunity to provide focussed support on Communication and Language to children within the environment that they are secure and comfortable in. Lift off to Language groups develop a wide range of Communication and Language skills:

- children's attention and listening skills
- children's social awareness of others
- children's confidence levels
- children's ability to initiate and participate in conversation with their peers
- children's ability to follow instructions at a 2 or more word level
- breadth of vocabulary including verbs, prepositions and adjectives
- children's ability to produce target speech sounds



## What is Lift off to Language?

Lift off to Language is a programme of 6 sessions each lasting approximately 20 minutes. It is advised that the group consists of 4-6 children. The group provides the opportunity to target children's social interactions, turn taking skills, comprehension and expressive language skills. The programme supports the development of children's comprehension and expression of various concepts i.e. prepositions, opposites and categories of vocabulary i.e. animals, clothes. Activities within the sessions can be selected dependent on the area of need with the children's Communication and Language skills.

I am pleased to confirm Claire has been observed carrying out a LOTL session by a trained Speech & Language Therapist and is now certified to lead on these sessions. Beccy's 6 week program will start on 9th March and be observed on 23rd March.



These 6 week programs will then continue (similarly to our previous Chatterbox Groups) to 'boost' any children who will benefit.

## **Behind the Scenes**

As well as Claire & Beccy training to deliver the LOTL program, Angela has attended 3 days of training to become SEND coordinator. Angela will be supported by Karen in this role and will be supporting our SEND children and their families. Angela & Karen will be attending some network meetings and further training in this area. Emma has attended a Communication & Language training program which will give her the specialist tools to support speech & language within the pre school. Beccy has attended a training course on leadership. Deb & Tanya are both Paediatric First Aid trained; meaning all the team now hold this qualification. Emma, Claire & Deb attended Epi Pen and asthma training.

I would like to say a huge 'well done' and 'thank you' to the team for their continued determination to support all our children in the best possible way for them to reach their full potential. The skill set of our team is something to be extremely proud of.

## Dates for your diary

2<sup>nd</sup> March – World Book Day

14<sup>th</sup> March – Individual/sibling photographs

4<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term

Summer Term starts - 19<sup>th</sup> April



## Kiddie Yoga

We have made the difficult decision to cancel our Kiddie Yoga sessions with Carine.

The feedback from the children about Yoga was very mixed – some enjoying it, while others were disengaged.

We felt the funding being used to cover the cost would be better spent elsewhere.

We will continue to use some of the exercises and techniques we have learnt within our sessions. This has been well received by the children.

## Calling all Gardeners !!

We want to develop the garden area and make it more user-friendly for the children, particularly in the colder weather.

Some of our ideas involve the removal or mud, laying astro turf and bark and erecting fencing -

If anyone thinks they could help us with our renovations we would love to hear from you. At this stage we are obtaining quotes for the works we would like done.



## World Book Day 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> March

Guess what my favourite story is.....



To celebrate World Book Day we are giving the children a project to do with you at home.....

1. Select your favourite story book
2. Share the story with Mum, Dad, Granny or Grandad.
3. Find an empty shoe box, or a container of a similar size.
4. Collect up to 8 objects/items which will act as clues to your favourite story
5. Write your name on your box and write the name of your favourite story on a piece of paper and put it inside an envelope in the box.
6. Bring your box of clues to Stompers any day of w/c 27<sup>th</sup> February for your friends to guess your favourite book.



We have arranged for Tempest Photography to be at Stondon Stompers on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March to take individual and sibling photographs; 8.30-11.00am

For those normally attending this session they will be included within the session.

For those who are not usually in or would like sibling photos taken please sign up on the timeslot sheet on the white board in the foyer.