



Lairdsland Early Years Centre

May 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our May 2022 newsletter. Having recently taken over from Adele as (Acting) Depute Head of Centre, I have been getting to know the staff team and all of our children, I look forward to meeting all of you too.

Attendance

We are pleased to see all the 3-5 children have settled well into the new routine of using the main entrance at drop off and pick up time. ***Can all parents and carers use the buzzer located at the main door, to let staff know you have arrived. This will support the staff to transition the children from home to nursery and reduce waiting times.***

Please ensure you call the office before 9:30am if your child will not be attending. If your child is going to be late please call and order a lunch before 9.30am.

Can we kindly ask that if you are picking your child up before 12.30pm that you let us know in advance, this will allow us to get your child ready for collection and ensure they have had adequate time to eat their lunch.

We have noticed an increase in the number of late pick-ups for children within the centre. We kindly remind you of the importance of picking your child up on time as the nursery is staffed throughout the day in accordance to ratios to keep all children safe. We understand that things crop up and can't be helped, we ask that if you are running late in collecting your child you let us know as soon as you can. This also allows us to prepare your child if they aren't going home with their friends at their usual collection time. If you are unsure of your child's session times don't hesitate to ask at the office and we can assist you on this further

Health and safety

We realise that family circumstances can change from week to week, therefore we ask that you let us know of any changes regarding your child and family in order for us to support you and your child the best we possibly can. No matter how small it is, it's always best to keep your child's keyworker or any staff member aware of any changes – e.g. allergen, change in family circumstances, if child has received medicine, etc.

Clothing

We are asking parents to bring a wet suit, wellies and a change of clothes as our garden can become muddy and wet. Staff in the Early Years Centre are happy to return wellies and wet suits at the end of the nursery day if you do not wish to leave them at the centre. Can parents/carers please ensure they label their child's clothes with their names. We are asking all parents to bring their children to nursery in clothing that they do not mind getting dirty. As much as we try our best to keep children as clean as possible, children enjoy exploring and often can become dirty doing this.

With summer approaching, can we ask parents to ensure children come to nursery with loose clothing on and a sun hat. The early year's centre provides sun cream for the children throughout the nursery day, but we ask parents to bring their child with sun cream already applied to start their day. You are more than welcome to provide sun cream for your child if they prefer a specific type which we can label and store within your child's bag within the early year's centre.

If your child wears nappies can you ensure that you provide an adequate amount of nappies, wipes and cream. Staff will be able to remind you if any of these are running low to give you time to replace them.

Foodbank

We are pleased to announce we have been given a certificate of recognition for our donations to East Dunbartonshire's foodbank. At Lairdsland Early Years Centre we have donated 88.80 kg of fruit and vegetables between 22nd September 2021 – 31 March 2022.



Teaching, learning and assessment 3-5 years

Literacy Focus

This month we are focusing on mark making, recognising our names and attempting to write our names. The children are being encouraged to identify their name during group time experiences as well as in the courtyard where their pegs are. Throughout our nursery, there are lots of opportunities for the children to develop their mark making skills. Some children have been in the garden using spray water bottles to write their names and numbers. It has been so much fun and no doubt will continue when the rain eventually stops at the end of the week!

The children are able to choose the media they would like to use for mark making – pens, pencils, crayons and paint in the Literacy and Art areas as well as flour, rice, salt and glitter in the Malleable area.

Numeracy Focus

The children are showing great interest in measurement. They have been designing and creating their own buildings in the Block Play area both in the playroom and in the courtyard. Once built, all children have been using non-standard units (e.g. hands) and measuring tapes to see how tall and long their buildings are. The children have also been experiencing measurement outdoors by drawing around their shadows (and those of the staff) and using non-standard units to compare sizes. All the children are developing their Mathematical language to describe size. This month the children will also have the opportunity to explore measurement through water play and Malleable experiences.

Health and Wellbeing Focus

The children have been noticing the change in the weather and are happy to spend a longer period of time in the garden. When doing so they have been exploring the changes in the plants and trees. There have been many discussions about buds on trees and plants as well as the change of season from Winter to Spring. The focus this month is where living things come from e.g. plants from seeds, butterflies from caterpillars, and what living things need to grow and survive.

Pre School Children

You may hear your child talking about going to school in August. This is something that has been spoken about a lot throughout the Early Years Centre. Some children have been to visit their school with some of their peers and staff while other children have had their primary teachers/ members of their school come in and meet them. This is a very exciting time for the children and we understand this can be an anxious time also. We will continue to have open discussions with parents, children and school partners, preparing our children and families for a smooth transition from nursery to school.

Caterpillar Room

Over the last month in the Caterpillar room we have been exploring our sense of touch a great deal. We have explored lots of materials – ice, brightly coloured rice, big and small bubbles, fluffy pompoms, sticky playdough, coloured water and even wet and dry sand. These activities are all playing a part in developing and extending our physical and communication skills, helping us to make sense of the world.

Outside in the garden we have been digging in the planters then using the results of our digs, along with some grass and flowers to make potions in the mud kitchen. As the better weather creeps in we are looking forward to getting out in the fresh air and further exploring the nursery garden, maybe even go on a bug hut or two!

Staffing

We have welcomed Shona Blair as our new acting Deputy Head of Centre. We would also like to welcome our newest team members, Rachel Travers has started with us and is based within our Caterpillar room and Michelle Meechan, Ailish Docherty and Tracy Corlett who will be working within our 3-5 room.

Treat Fund

We would like to thank you all for your continued support in regards to the treat fund. The suggested donation is 50p per session. The treat fund is used to provide your child with many different experiences following the interest of each individual child, by contributing this allows us to continually enhance your child's learning throughout their time at the EYC.

The fund also allows us to celebrate special moments within the nursery such as birthdays and an upcoming graduation.

The children have the opportunity to participate in sensory and creative play throughout their session. Throughout this play, children are developing many skills, independence and creative freedom and your contribution to the treat fund allows us to facilitate more of these activities e.g. making playdough or baking which proves to be a favourite amongst the children.

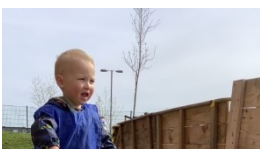
Dates for the Diary

Nursery Closed - Friday 27th May

Nursery Closed - Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd June

Kind regards,
Shona Blair
(Acting) Depute Head of Centre

What have we been doing ...







Staffing structure

Senior Management Team	
Head of Centre	Fiona Donaghey
Acting Depute Head of Centre	Shona Blair
Nursery Teacher	Yvonne McKay
Senior Early Years Worker	Devlin Ryan
Senior Early Years Worker	Charley Cullen
Caterpillar Room	
Kelley-Anne Ezgu	Jennifer Fagan
Rachel Johnstone	Rachel Travers
Amy Welsh	
3-5 Room	
Eilleen Smith	Matthew McLean
Gemma McKay	Amanda Wilkie
Ashleigh Murray	Danielle Crainey
Kirsten Moore	Tammy Boyle
Siobhan O'Meara	Lisa Carr
Michelle Meechan	Ailish Docherty
Tracy Corlett	
Facilities and Support Staff	
Clerical Assistant	Fiona Stewart
FM Building Manager	Isabel Cassidy
Day Cleaner - AM	James Love
Day Cleaner - PM	Caroline Smith
Housekeeper	Sharon Thomson