



Croft Playgroup Newsletter

April & May 2022



Thinking about
“How we want the world to be”
 focusing on:

- ❖ Being listened to and feeling valued,
- ❖ Being encouraged and allowed to make our own choices,
- ❖ Valuing each other’s similarities and differences,
- ❖ Understanding how to be healthy in mind and body,
 - ❖ Being independent.

Contact details

We’re always pleased to hear from you

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Find us on Facebook too: Croft Playgroup, Swindon

Dates for the term ahead:

Mon 25 th April	Term starts Show and Tell	<i>Children can bring in something to show or tell us about something special.</i>
Wednesday 27 th April	Committee Meeting <i>All welcome</i>	6:30pm at playgroup
Every Tuesday	Zumba	Sessions for both rooms.
Mon 2 nd May	Bank holiday	Playgroup closed
Week beginning Monday 9 th May	Parent’s reading week	10:45am & 2:45pm <i>Please email the office to let us know when you’d like to come in.</i>
Saturday 14 th May	Playgroup’s 50th Birthday celebration	10 to 11:30am <i>Please join us for a play and to help us celebrate.</i>
Week beginning Mon 16 th May	‘Walk to playgroup week’	Walk, scoot or cycle to playgroup as part of our ‘Being Healthy’ project.
Wednesday 18 th May	Bring a Family Member to Preschool day	10-11am and 1:30-2:30pm *for children who are usually in on this day*
Friday 28 th May	Last day of term	
Monday 30 th May to Friday 5 th June	Half term break	Playgroup closed all week
Monday 6 th June	Term 6 starts	

Names and spare clothes – Please remember to send in at least 2 changes of clothes for your child and ***name everything you possibly can!*** We are always glad of spare clothes so if you have any you could donate then we’d be very grateful.

Sun cream – it is likely that the children will need sun cream applied before they arrive at playgroup. We will also send home a letter to seek permission to apply sun cream (which we will supply) at playgroup to ensure that the children can play safely outside. Please also send them in with a sun hat and appropriate footwear.

Please remember to discourage bringing in toys from home unless it is show and tell or your child needs help to come into playgroup.

We look forward to the term ahead; to welcoming our new starters and the promise of seeing the children grow in confidence and independence as they play together.

Being Healthy - During this term we explore the theme of 'Being Healthy'.

- During their play and circle time sessions we think and talk about how we can be healthy in mind and body.
- We use picture books to help us reflect on and celebrate our similarities and differences, and ways that we can treat each other with kindness and respect.
- Learning about the cultures and practices of our playgroup families is another way to value each other. Previously we have learnt about the Lunar New Year, the Swedish Midsummer festival, the Spanish festival of the Three Kings, the Hindu festival Vasant Panchami, the Turkish festival of independence and the Hungarian 'Santa day' celebration. Please let us know if there are celebrations coming up that you take part in as a family which we can learn about at playgroup.
- We also focus on how we care for our bodies including caring for our teeth. We are delighted to have a playgroup Daddy, who is a dentist, booked in to come to talk to the children on Thursday 12th May.
- The week beginning Monday 16th May will be 'Walk to Playgroup week' during which we encourage everyone to walk, scoot or cycle to playgroup. We will think and talk about how we keep our bodies healthy and the value and effects of exercise.
- *We are also working with the Committee to plan a Sponsored Walk event during term 6 to further encourage and value movement and exercise. More info to follow.*
- We use large 'floor books' to record comments and ideas from circle time discussions.

Responsibility and risk taking to boost esteem and camaraderie

- As part of their play (and often specifically part of outdoor play) the children will take bigger risks and try new things. It is essential for their physical and fully rounded development that they are able to do this.
- They also need to move and climb to develop their core strength which will prepare them for more sitting, listening and focused fine motor tasks as they progress at school.
- Our support of the children is also informed by what we know about the importance of reflex integration, postural control and opportunities to move. We will share more specific information with you during term 5 about what

you can do to support your children to strengthen the connections between brain and body and further develop their higher level cognitive functions, but if you'd like to do a little research yourself you can find out more by looking at the website: www.rhythmicmovement.org

- We will continue to challenge the children to think and explore as they use resources both indoors and outside. The use of tools will also continue to encourage them to fine tune their coordination, control, communication and problem solving skills. It's been wonderful to see their focus and concentration and the creations they've made. In April we had a visit from an SBC Early Years Consultant who was delighted to see the children being encouraged to use tools, be independent thinkers and be ambitious in their play.
- General risk taking and striving to achieve new skills is a wonderful boost to children's self-esteem as they discover what they are capable of, but it can result in more injuries. Children usually work within their levels of confidence and try new things only when they feel comfortable and capable of doing so.
- We will, of course, always try to ensure the children's safety and ensure that the risks are carefully managed. If you would like to read more about play and risk, there is a useful pdf document on the Health and Safety Executive website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf>
- We also encourage the children to help us in taking on responsibility for 'jobs' around playgroup. This can involve helping adults to check the garden and equipment is clear and ready for play (the children always enjoy wielding litter pickers!), checking that everyone has remembered to put up their registration leaves, checking we have enough paper towels and tissues in the rooms, helping to sweep the floors and wipe the tables, thinking of exciting activity ideas. Children often enjoy a role of responsibility and a feeling that they are helping to do a 'grown up' job; those who are due to start school in September are often particularly ready for that feeling of extra responsibility.

Our 50th birthday celebration

- Our celebration is on **Saturday 14th May from 10 to 11:30am**. This will be an open morning style event with play activities both inside and out with drinks and celebratory cakes available too. Do come to help us celebrate if you can.
- We are hoping to persuade the Swindon Advertiser to come and take photographs of the event and would love to have lots of children and families (both past and present) to help us celebrate.