



The Railway Nursery

Old School, High Street, Lavendon, Bucks, MK46 4HA

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September 2012

Dear Parents,

Wow, I can't believe that the Summer has been and gone and that we are now entering into a new school term. Across the summer we have been busy with the introduction of the revised EYFS, the training of new staff and generally sorting classrooms and deep cleaning equipment.

The revised EYFS

The revised EYFS came into place on the 1st September. This has recently been reviewed and re-written by the Department for Education. The reformed EYFS takes forward the Governments changes to the 2008 framework as recommended but the 2011 Tickell review. The reforms will:

- Reduce paperwork and bureaucracy
- Strengthen partnerships between parents and professionals
- Focus on the three prime areas of learning most essential for children's readiness for future learning and healthy development
- Simplify assessment at age five and
- Provide early intervention where necessary, through the introduction of a progree check at age two.

Changes to the learning and development requirements

1/ *Areas of learning and development;* consists of three prime areas and four specific (was 6 areas). The prime areas cover the knowledge and skills which are the foundations for children's school readiness and future progress, and which applied and reinforced by specific areas – particularly literacy and maths – they form an appropriate baseline for the National Curriculum.

2/ *Early Learning goals and assessment;* instead of 69 goals, there will now be 17. Providers are required to share the report on each child, along with a brief report on the characteristics of learning with the year 1 teacher.

3/ *Progress check at age two;* the revised EYFS introduces a requirement for providers to review children's progress when a child is aged between two and three. A short written summary must be provided to parents or carers, highlighting achievements and areas in which extra support might be needed, and describing how the provider will address any issues.

4/ *Play and teaching;* it is made clear that providers are responsible for ongoing judgements about the balance between play and teaching, between activities led by children and activities led or guided by adults.

5/ *English as an additional language;* the relevant requirements give clearer focus on the reasonable steps provider must take, including the assessment of children's skills in English.

6/ *Wrap-around and holiday care;* the framework now makes clear that the EYFS requirements do not need to be delivered in full when children spend limited amounts of time in a setting.

Changes to the welfare requirements

To emphasise the importance of safeguarding, the welfare requirements are now the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

- 1/ *Child protection*; the revised EYFS includes examples of adults' behaviour which might be signs of abuse and neglect. If they become aware of any such signs, staff should respond appropriately in order to safeguard children.
- 2/ *The EYFS* now requires that safeguarding policies and procedures must cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting.
- 3/ *Suitable people*- providers are now responsible for obtaining criminal record disclosures on managers.
- 4/ *Staff qualifications, training, support and skills*; a requirement has been introduced in relation to staff supervision. Providers must give staff opportunities for coaching and training, mutual support, teamwork, continuous improvement and confidential discussion of sensitive issues.
- 5/ *Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment*; the requirements in relation to risk assessments have been adjusted to clarify that it is for providers to judge whether a risk assessment needs to be recorded in writing.

This has meant that we have been busy, altering and updating all our policies and procedures, paperwork and re-writing the learning journeys.

You may be required to re-sign your child's learning journey, introducing the changes within this to you. You may also notice subtle changes to the planning, routines and daily/weekly diaries.

A display has been put up in the entrance hall to explain what the revised EYFS means to us, please take time to read this.

Staffing – You may notice some new faces around the nursery, It is with great pleasure that I introduce Katie and Katherine to you all. They both come to us with a vast knowledge and years of experience across the childcare sector. Sandra has now gone on Maternity leave and is planning to return to us in June 2013, watch this space as the baby is due any day now. And finally we wish Nichole, who has been our holiday cover for many years and Vicky 'Bon Voyage' as they leave to go travelling across Australia, New Zealand and Asia for several months.

Parking/Safety – we have been approached by the village hall about parking in the car park, please park with consideration to others. Plans may be in place soon to have bays marked up. Also, please do not park on the bend directly outside of the nursery. This has been a cause of concern to several parents.

Please remember to close the front gate on entering and exiting the nursery.

Date for your Diary – Friday 19th October- Parents evening.

If at any time you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting me on lisa.blake@dsl.pipex.co.uk or by talking to one of my wonderful senior staff.

Hayley Ruffett – Deputy Manager (Paddington Room)

Nicky Tigwell – Senior Practitioner (Central Station) or

Hayley Ash – Senior practitioner (Piccadilly Room)

With kind regards,

Lisa Blake
Manager

