



Newsletter

August 2024

Welcome to the Over 3's

This term we welcome back our term time families who we hope have had a wonderful 6-week break, we are also welcoming some new families from our Under 3's setting and also our waiting list.

Getting to know you

This term we will spend time getting to know the children and supporting them to feel at home within our nursery setting, supporting strong connections with the children, parents and staff. If you have any questions, please chat to us at drop off or collection or give us a call.

We will spend time supporting the children to feel safe whilst at nursery, to build their confidence and curiosity and explore all the nursery has to offer.

Having strong connections with our families is very important to us, please share ideas, suggestions and news with us to allow us to continue to deliver a quality service.

The E Journals are being used well and we have seen an increase in parents accessing them, thank you; we hope they are providing you with all the information you require. The staff have also been using the section on E Journals to share stories with you on the many different activities and interests of the children. I am pleased to see that parents are seeing these and responding. If you are unsure of how to use the Learning Journal's please have a look at the "How to" videos on their website.

[How To Videos - Learning Journals](#)

Play and our Learning Environments

Our nursery play spaces are set up to invite children to explore and be creative with a range of natural resources, loose parts and materials supporting them in play and learning. Our nursery strives to have a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere allowing the children to feel relaxed and happy throughout their day. If you feel there is something you would like to share with us, maybe coming into nursery to read a story, if you have materials we could use in our role play, dressing up from different cultures please talk to a member of staff, we would love to share your skills, cultures and celebrations with all the children and staff.



Outdoor clothing

It is our goal to continue to offer outdoor play in all weathers and children will have the freedom to explore all the elements and enjoy it if they are dressed appropriately. Please see the list below that will support you in dressing your child appropriately to enjoy their outdoor experiences.

WHAT TO WEAR IN SPRING/AUTUMN

- **Waterproofs**
- **One pair of comfortable trousers (jogging bottoms or leggings)**
- **One long sleeved t-shirt or top**
- **One thick jumper**
- **One fleecy zip up jacket**
- **Two pairs of socks. On the bottom, one thin cotton sock, and the top, a thick wool or fluffy bed sock**
- **Wellies or sturdy closed toe shoes (which you don't mind getting wet and muddy!)**
- **Spare full change of clothing**





Standard and quality development

As always there continues to be lots of development happening throughout the nursery. Last year we focused on:

1. Children leading their own learning
- 2 - Tracking children's progress, development and numeracy
- 3 - Children's Rights UNCRC

These areas were reviewed, and we made lots of changes to ensure these priorities are now embedded into practice. Your feed back through the questionnaires and parents evening were invaluable and supported us in evaluating our processes and outcomes for the children. Please see email sent regarding actions taken. Please see the information sheet emailed.

Every year we have a quality development plan, this helps us identify the key areas we would like to improve. Our priorities for 2024 to 2025 will be:

- 1 – To support all children to making good progress with communication and literacy/to support our bilingual families to feel valued and part of the nursery
- 2 – To support all children to make good progress in mathematics and numeracy
- 3- To ensure parents and families feel valued and are confident to be active in supporting their child's learning at nursery and at home.

Throughout the year we will be inviting you to evaluate the setting through these priorities, your input is invaluable to us to ensure we continue to deliver a quality service for you and your child. If you would like any further information on our Standards and quality plan and the areas, we will be reviewing please contact Donna Rodger on drodger@smilechildcare.org

We look forward to working with you to support our improvement

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Book lending library/bedtime stories



We ran this library last term and it was very popular, we have decided to extend this opportunity throughout this term. For this to be successful if you borrow a book, please remember to sign it out and please return to allow other families to enjoy it too, thank you and happy reading. If you have books you would like to add to our library, please do pass them on for all to enjoy.

For more information on sharing stories with your child please go to <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>.

If you have any questions about this, please speak to any staff member.

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SIMOA



This term we will be introducing SIMOA the elephant to the children. Simoa will be used to help staff and children to remember how to stay safe, for further information on this please visit: <https://hub.careinspectorate.com/how-we-support-improvement/quality-improvement-programmes-and-topics/keeping-children-safe/>.

Although this initiative is inspired through the Care Inspectorate to support staff working in early years, we feel this is an excellent opportunity to strengthen our nursery home links. Simoa will be visiting the children in nursery and all the children will have the opportunity for Simoa the elephant to stay with them over a weekend throughout the year, we hope we thank you in advance for supporting us with this exciting opportunity.

Hello, my name is Donna Rodger and I am the Manager of smilechildcares over 3's setting. I have worked for smilechildcare for 28 years. I have worked in all areas over the under 3's starting in the playroom then becoming a manager in 2001, I thoroughly enjoy working in smilechildcare as no 2 days are the same.

When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my husband and children, Dale 25 and Danielle 20.

I love working within childcare and spending time building strong relationships with the children and their families.



Hi my name is Teagan, I am 19 years old and I live at home with my mum and siblings. I have a really big family, and we are always spending time together. I have worked in childcare since I was 16 and I have experience in working with children from birth to 5 years.

I enjoy working in childcare, particularly supporting children to reach their full potential.

Outside work I enjoy spending time with my friends and spending time with family, we are always spending time together.

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Social Media

We have a Facebook Business page, Twitter page, where we share snapshots of what the children have been enjoying, experiencing, learning and exploring whilst in Nursery. You will also find all the information on smilechildcare on our web page, if you have any queries.

Please join us on our social media platforms.

[Smilechildcare | Facebook](#)

[smilechildcareedinburgh\(@smilechildcare1\)/Twitter](#)

<http://smilechildcare.org>

Communication

We continue to look at the ways we are sharing information with you all, and your feedback on this is welcomed.

If you have any further suggestions, comments or complements please send an email to mailbox@smilechildcare.org or share with the staff members. As you may have noticed we are starting to add QR codes to the information sent to you, we hope this helps parents and families to translate easier and allow families to share our news.