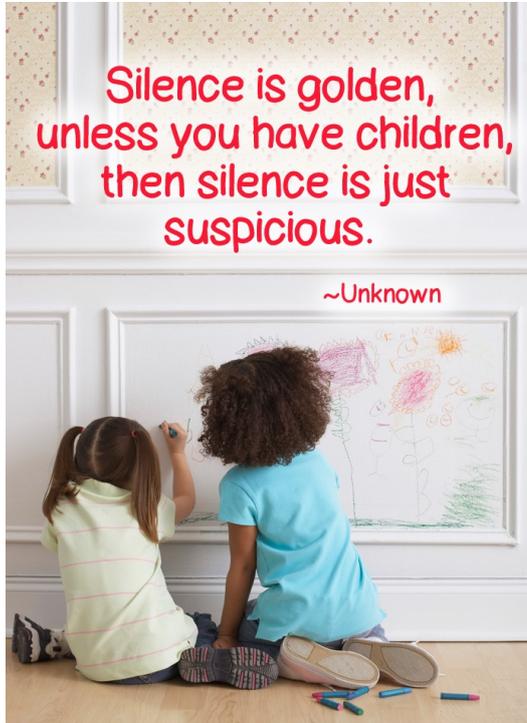




Out of the Pot!



Winter/Spring 2020



Happy New Year

Hello and welcome to those parents who have just joined us. We hope you are settling back into familiar routines now that we are some way into the new year.

Douglas Adams once said "I may not have gone where I intended to go but I think I've ended up where I needed to be." As a parent and grandparents to an 18 month old toddler who currently attends Paint Pots, we think that quote can apply to raising children too.

There isn't an instruction manual telling us exactly how to love and care for our children and yet we are expected to make all the most basic decisions for them from the moment they are born. That is the greatest responsibility of a parent's life but it's worth remembering that there is no straight path to success. Even those of us who are professionals don't know what each unique child will become..

If we do our best to interact with our children, nurture them and allow them to foster relationships with those who love them then though they may still grow in surprising ways– we are giving our children the best chance to develop into the best version of themselves that they can be.

The Power of Blocks

Research led by Anna Sosa of Northern Arizona University gave parents of 10-16 month-olds books, electronic toys or traditional toys and then recorded the interactions the parents and children had:

"When there's something else that's doing some talking, the parents seem to be sitting on the side-lines and letting the toy talk for them and respond for them," Sosa says. "That's bad because the best way a toy can promote language in infants and toddlers is by stimulating interaction between parent and child.

There's simply no evidence that a young child can learn language directly from a toy. It isn't responsive enough. It isn't social."

"As for the other toys, traditional blocks and puzzles stimulated more conversation than the electronic toys, and books outscored them all. But don't underestimate the humble block. While traditional toys fell short of books in interaction quantity, Sosa notes, they kept pace in terms of quality."

Ofsted Outstanding Success

Over a six week period from November to January, Paint Pots had three Ofsted inspections. We are delighted to say that all three settings have received an outstanding grade from Ofsted. Whilst we know that caring for children is about much more than just inspections, we are nevertheless proud of these results which are an affirmation of our work and a testament to the effort and care that our teams display on a daily basis. We are grateful to everyone at all of our settings including parents and carers who have helped us to achieve these wonderful results and we hope for many more in the future.



Help your child develop good language and communication skills with these tips



- Talk to your child when you're playing together.
- Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.
- Encourage your child to listen to different sounds such as cars and animals. This will help your child's listening skills.
- Gain your child's attention when you want to talk.
- Increase vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. 'Do you want juice or milk?'
- Talk about things as they happen, e.g. when you're both unpacking the shopping.
- Listen carefully and give your child time to finish talking. Take turns to speak.
- Always respond in some way when your child says something.
- Help your child to use more words by adding to what he/she has said, e.g. if he said "ball" you might say, "Yes, a red ball."
- If your child says something incorrectly, say it back the right way, e.g. "Goggy bited it." "Yes, the dog bit it, didn't he?"
- Try and have special time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books.
- Limit TV time. Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.

Talking to your baby matters



- It will help your child learn to talk, as it is from listening to your voice that babies learn to use language.
- It will stimulate your baby's brain, helping to strengthen the connections that make learning possible.
- It will help your child become a good reader and writer, because language skills form the foundation for literacy.
- It will help your child develop social skills and good relationships.
- It will show that you love and respect your child, enhancing self-esteem.
- It will help the two of you form a close bond - communication is the basis of your relationship with each other.



Staff updates-

- We would like to welcome Tara-Lei as a team member. Please say hello if you see her at the nursery.
- We sadly have to say goodbye to Naomi and Gail. We want to wish them all the best for the future and wish them the best of luck in their new jobs.
- Congratulations to Jasmine who has completed her level 3.
- We are developing our Pre- School construction area- if you have any old bike wheels, cardboard tubes, drainpipes, wood cut offs, cogs, cable reels etc. you can donate we would very grateful.

Reminders-

- Parking- We understand that our car parking spaces are quite limited, but please can we ask that the shared driveway is not blocked and the space in front of the pre-school window is not taken. We want to ensure that people leaving and entering our building remain safe and we do want to ensure that people can get to places on time without having an extended wait.
- Please make sure you arrive on time for your sessions to allow us to give you a detailed feedback on collections. If your child is going to school in September we ask you to attend your sessions on time in preparation for school readiness.
- Please make sure that your children have weather appropriate clothing, particularly as it's so cold at the moment.

Under Two's

This term we have been exploring our local community by going on plenty of walks to the shops, library and parks. We have introduced more natural objects into our areas, we have been making sensory bottles, treasure baskets and cosy areas to relax. We have also been singing nursery rhymes, exploring different textures and reading lots of books. As our babies are growing, we have been focusing on finding our body parts for example head, nose, eyes, toes etc.



Older Toddlers

In Older Toddlers we have been very busy reading lots of books, we have had picnics and have also been out visiting the shops in Shirley. We have been focusing on singing different songs, dancing and exploring “messy” activities.



Pre School

Over the last few weeks we have been exploring magnets, monster trucks and construction. We have shown more interest in bugs, lizards and animals. We have been making shopping lists to go out to our local shops to then come back and make bird feeders. Numbers and sequencing have also been popular, often talking about ages. Until the end of term, we will be focusing on being kind, looking after our toys. Watch this space as Peter and Paola will be visiting!

