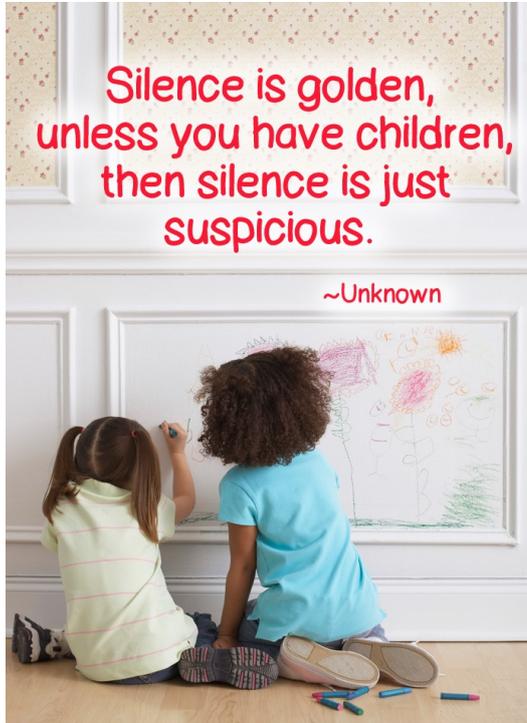




# Out of the Pot!



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.

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## 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."

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## 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.



## Winter updates

- As the weather continues to be wet and windy, please ensure you are bringing in coats and wellies – we love to splash in the puddles! Don't forget to write a name!
- As part of our continuous provision, we are always in need of boxes, tubes, wood, curtain rings and all sorts! If you have anything spare that you don't need, please feel free to donate them to us!
- Have you seen our 'Acts of Kindness' for this term? To spread kindness around our community, Paint Pots will be collecting new toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, wet wipes and tissues to donate to The Society of St James! Please let us know if you'd be able to donate some of these to us or would like some more information! Thank you very much to those who have already donated!

## Babies

Our busy babies have been exploring all sorts of exciting activities! They have found new and fun ways to express themselves through music, painting and noise! We feel very special to be a part of our little one's early learning!



## Toddlers

We have been getting cosy! By adapting our environments to create snug spots with compelling curiosities, we have been providing more opportunities to relax and engage in meaningful conversations throughout the day! It is lovely to see friendships being made between the children.



## Preschool

We love Love! Over the last term, our kindness fairies have been visiting and spreading the kindness and love around our setting. The children have been particularly aware of each other's feelings and how to support each other when something can be difficult. We are very proud of each and every one!

