

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! At last, the days are drawing out and the nights are getting lighter. This year, astronomical spring begins on Thursday 20th March and ends on Saturday 21st June 2025 and we have lots planned for the coming months as we welcome new children and also begin our school readiness program to prepare our preschool children for the next big adventure to school. We will be spending more time out in our communities and some of our settings will continue to visit their local care homes, building on the intergenerational relationships that both the young and old equally love. We have provided some top tips on a few important issues that we hope you will find useful but if you have any ideas for future issues or topics you would like us to cover, please don't hesitate to talk to your nursery manager or email info@paintpotsnursery.co.uk

Paint Pots is now a charity and our work is driven by a set of core values about bringing joy, care and friendship. We hope that you and your children have a wonderful term with us, in an environment which is full of love, laughter and learning.

Benefits of good attendance

Children's attendance is crucial for their overall development. When children attend consistently, they get to engage with their friends, practice social skills, and develop meaningful relationships, all of which are vital for their social and emotional growth. Regular attendance also helps children build on their learning and master new concepts, setting a strong foundation for future educational success. It allows them to form secure bonds with their teachers and peers, promoting a sense of belonging and emotional well-being. Tracking attendance also supports children's safety by keeping us informed about their whereabouts, enabling us to act promptly if needed. Cultivating good attendance habits now prepares them for the routines they'll face in later life, including school, work and social situations, and is linked to beneficial outcomes such as academic achievement and enhanced social skills. We appreciate your support in fostering this important habit!



Safe Sleep

Safer sleep reduces the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS, previously known as cot death) occurring. Follow these tips until your child is 12 months old (adjusted for premature or low birthweight babies), to help give you peace of mind. Following this advice has saved the lives of over 30,000 babies since 1991.



Information taken from:

[Safer sleep overview | The Lullaby Trust](#)

The safest place for a baby to sleep is in their own distinct, flat, and firm sleep space, such as a cot or Moses basket, located in the same room as you.

- Lie your baby on their back.
- Keep their cot clear.
- Use a firm, flat, waterproof mattress.
- Keep baby smoke-free.
- Avoid your baby getting too hot.
- Sleep your baby in the same room as you for at least the first 6 months.

Keeping Your Baby's Cot Safe

The safest sleeping environment for your baby is a clear cot. This means making sure only the essentials are included. Babies only need two things in their cot:

- A firm, flat, waterproof mattress.
- Lightweight bedding.

It's crucial to remove any items that aren't necessary, as toys, blankets, and bumpers could potentially cover their face and hinder their breathing.

When setting up your baby's sleep area, remember:

- **No** pillows or duvets.
- **No** cot bumpers.
- **No** soft toys or comforters.
- **No** bulky bedding.
- **No** products to restrict your baby's movement, like wedges or straps.
- **No** pods, nests, or soft items on the mattress.

Try to keep the room temperature between
16–20°C

Making Co-sleeping Safer

While many parents may opt to share a bed with their baby, it's important to remember that adult beds are not designed or tested for infant sleep like cots or Moses baskets. If you choose to co-sleep, or it happens unexpectedly, taking steps to make your sleep area safer is essential.

- Keep pillows and adult bedding away from your baby. Loose items can cover their head or cause overheating, which can increase the risk of SIDS.
- Remove any slatted or decorated headboards, as these can pose a risk.
- Always place your baby on their back to sleep.
- Avoid bringing other children or pets into bed with you to further reduce the chance of accidents.
- Ensure your baby cannot get trapped in the bedframe or headboard and is safe from falling out or being wedged between the mattress and the wall.
- Never leave your baby unattended in an adult bed. Risks can change as your baby becomes more mobile, so it's wise to check your bed setting regularly to prevent any accidents.

The Funding Loop

Welcome to Funding Loop

We are pleased to introduce our families to Funding Loop - our trusted partner for processing Government childcare funding claims. We'll be launching the funding loop in April 2025 at all our Paint Pots settings, so please watch for the upcoming email updates!

What is Funding Loop?

Funding Loop is a simple-to-use portal that allows parents to complete their funding documents online, making it quicker and easier to successfully access their funding entitlement.

How does it work?

Parents whose children currently receive funding at our settings, or will do so next term, will be invited to create a Funding Loop account. This will enable them to securely access important documents for their child. We encourage all parents to log into Funding Loop as soon as they receive their invitation.

Funding Loop provides parents with the following benefits:

- Access to the portal from a computer, tablet, or mobile phone
- Important updates about funding
- Viewing of all funding claim documents
- Digital completion of mandatory funding forms
- Submission of funded childcare codes
- Quicker funding claims process
- Assurance that all data is stored securely

Families eligible for funded childcare should apply for and submit their codes promptly to ensure their funding is allocated effectively and must remember to renew the codes every 3 months.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Manager at your Paint Pots Setting.



Understanding Feelings Through Play: Games for Children

Using games to explore feelings can significantly enhance children's emotional literacy and communication skills. By integrating these playful activities into your home or classroom, you not only make discussing feelings enjoyable but also help children build a strong foundation for understanding their emotions and those of others. Remember, it's all about creating a safe space for children to share and learn!

In our fast-paced world, encouraging children to express their feelings can be a challenge. However, play is a powerful tool for communication and emotional development. Here are some engaging games that can help children articulate their feelings in a fun and interactive way.

1. Feelings Charades

How to Play: Write down various emotions on slips of paper (happy, sad, angry, surprised, etc.) One child picks a slip and acts out the emotion without using words, while others guess what it is. After each round, discuss times when they might have felt that way.

Benefits: This game encourages children to recognise and express emotions, enhancing their understanding of non-verbal cues.

2. Emotion Wheel

What You Need: A large circle drawn on paper divided into sections labelled with different emotions (e.g., joy, fear, frustration).

How to Play: Have children spin a pointer or roll a die to land on an emotion. They then share a story or a time when they felt that emotion. Encourage questions and sharing among peers.

Benefits: This activity promotes self-reflection and helps children connect experiences to feelings, fostering empathy.



3. Feelings Bingo

What You Need:

Bingo cards with different emotions instead of numbers.

How to Play:

Call out emotions randomly, and when players recognise one on their card, they cover it. The first to get a row or full card can share a personal story related to one of the emotions they covered.

Benefits: This game reinforces vocabulary around feelings and encourages storytelling, making emotions more relatable.



4. Story Stones

What You Need: Smooth stones and paints or markers.

How to Play: Have children paint different emotions or situations on the stones. In a circle, each child picks a stone and shares a story related to the emotion depicted.

Benefits: Storytelling through stones provides a tactile experience that can help children open up about their feelings in a safe environment.

5. The Feelings Journal

What You Need: Notebooks or paper and writing/drawing tools.

How to Play: Encourage children to keep a feelings journal where they can write or draw about their daily emotions. Once a week, have a sharing circle where they can choose to share their favourite entry.

Benefits: This fosters self-expression and reflection, helping children to process their emotions over time.

Dates For Your Diary

- Easter Holidays for preschool and term time only:
Closed Monday 7th April- 22nd April 2025
- All closed: Good Friday 18th April
- All closed: Easter Monday 21st April
- Nursery and Preschool Inset Day Group closure
7th July 2025
- Summer holidays closed for preschool and term time only:
Closed 23rd July- 3rd September 2025