

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Starting Point Child Care Centre Celebrates Ofsted Success

Starting Point Child Care Centre has received another excellent Ofsted report following an inspection earlier this year.

The Centre, which is currently located on the ground floor at the College's Administration Centre in Crewe, offers childcare for 0 to 5 year olds and after school and holiday clubs for children up to 11 years of age.

Ofsted carried out the one day inspection to assess the quality and standards of registered early years provision at the nursery which caters for up to 76 children.

The report highlighted

that the Centre meets all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and offers an inclusive environment where children are fully safeguarded and their requirements are met.

All children develop a strong sense of belonging within the nursery, share warm relationships with staff and have access to an excellent range of resources, play opportunities and activities which reflect diversity, and benefit from fresh air and exercise each day.

The Centre's strong, well qualified and experienced management

team and staff who are highly motivated towards providing good quality care and education for children also received high praise from the Ofsted Inspector.

The report also singled out that parents value the friendly, informal relationships they share with staff and feel involved and included in the nursery.

Sam Hart, Starting Point Child Care Centre Manager, said: "We are very pleased with the Ofsted report which reflects the quality childcare service that we provide at Starting Point Child Care Centre.

### Starting Point Childcare Centre

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## The Great Escape

Lucky, the nursery Hamster started off life here at Edleston Road back in September 2008. However he was clearly unhappy about this and escaped from his cage continuously. After some investiga-

tions as to how he was managing to escape it was witnessed by a member of staff, which you had to see to believe, Lucky squeezed his body through the tiny bars of his cage in order to get away. Realising that Lucky would keep

escaping he was kindly adopted and now lives a life of luxury.



## Room News

### Growing, Growing Gone!

The preschool room have been concentrating this term on things that grow.

The children and staff have recently planted some tomato plant seeds and hope to grow their own tomatoes for the children to enjoy.

As well as growing plants and vegetables, the children themselves are also growing and will soon be leaving us to go to school. The staff will be

saying farewell to 12 pre-school children. The staff will be organising a trip to Funsters, just across the road, for the morning. The children will then return to the setting for a party lunch.

Following on from a busy party morning, Starting Point will be holding a mini graduation ceremony, where each child will be asked to come up to the front of the class and be awarded with a special

certificate.

Parents will be invited to come along to the ceremony and are welcome to bring cameras providing photographs of your own child are only taken.



### Toddler Room Takes Four - Colours



The toddler children, Elaine and staff have been working

really hard to develop a colour wall, to help to develop the children's knowledge of different colours. The children helped staff to chose **four** different colours and have divided a wall in the room to work on and develop a colour theme. The four colours

chosen are red, blue, yellow and green. Each section has been colourfully decorated with all things associated with the colours. The children have also talked about colours at the snack table, during story time and throughout their every day play.

### Expansion of the Baby Room

With the recent visit from Ofsted the baby room has once again expanded. The inspector was very impressed with how busy the baby room was and realised that there was also a waiting list. With this in mind Ofsted approved an increase to the registration from twelve children under the age of 2 years to eighteen children under the age of 2

years. This means that although the baby room itself will comfortably accommodate twelve children, if there are some children who are ready to move up to the toddler room before they turn 2 years old, we are able to move them up and fill their place in the baby room. The increased

registration allows us to be more flexible and to meet the needs of the children who are nearly 2. The expansion, once again highlights the popularity of the baby room. So a special thank you goes to Julie, Vickie, Sue and Lynn for their hard work and dedication in the baby room.

## Going Green in The Afterschool Club

The afterschool club children are about to take on a project of developing their own mini allotment. The area opposite the big blue container in the outside playing area has got a small patch of garden that is currently unused. This will be perfect for the children to develop and use for growing their own vegetables. The children will carry out the project under the supervision of Janice, the Out of School Club Supervisor.

Janice joined Starting Point about 3 months ago and has enjoyed trying out new ideas with the children. She is keen to help the children with their allotment and looks forward to seeing the end results. Photographs will be on display in the club, showing progress that the children have made and showing off their green finger talent. Andree, the lunch time assistant will, hopefully, be able to use some of the vegetables grown for the

children's lunches and afternoon light teas.

We hope that the children get a great sense of achievement with their new project.



## Continuing Professional Development

Staff are constantly updating their skills and knowledge through professional development activities in order to offer the best possible care to all children. Recent development updates have included first aid training to renew certificates for Julie,

Megan, Janice, Emma, Elaine, Margaret, Nicole and Michelle. Also attending courses for the safeguarding of children, these have been or will be attended by Sam, Gemma, Nicole and Ruth. Staff are very aware of the importance of updating their skills and knowledge and are always

keen and enthusiastic do so.

Nicole and Ruth have recently enrolled at university to start an Early Years Foundation Degree, which we wish them all the best with. Also Andree, Gemma and Lynn have recently undertaken the NVQ level 3 course and are getting well underway with their studies

## Session Times



As parents may be aware we have to meet legal ratios of staff to children throughout the day.

Therefore we have to be quite

strict on the times that children arrive for their session so as not to exceed the ratio limits. Therefore can parents please pay attention to the session times as listed, we would really appreciate it if children do not arrive before the specified times, thank you:

**AM session 8.15am onwards**

**PM session 1.00pm onwards**

**EYFS Grant session**

**AM 9.30 until 12.00pm**

**EYFS Grant session**

**PM 1.00 until 3.30pm**

**Centre closes at 6.00pm**

## Starting Point Childcare Centre

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## Dates for your diary

EYFS Grant Scheme finishes for the summer on:

**Friday 17th July 2009**

EYFS Grant Scheme commences in the Autumn Term:

**Monday 7th September 2009**

Preschool leavers party is on:

**Wednesday 1st July 2009**

Out of School Summer Holiday Club Starts on:

**Monday 20th July 2009**

Out Of School Summer Holiday Club Finishes on:

**Friday 4th September 2009**

## Photographs

Following recent events in the media regarding the use of photographs taken in a nursery setting in Plymouth, Starting Point would like to reassure all parents about the use of cameras and mobile phones within the setting.

The staff use 3 nursery cameras to take photographs of the children to be used only for wall display or development record purposes. Should any photographs be taken and used outside of the setting parents will receive a written letter and permission slip with

a full explanation of how the photographs will be used.

Staff are not permitted under any circumstances to have their mobile phones on them during working hours, they are also not permitted to take any photographs using their mobile phones.

Mobile phones will be kept in the staff room and will only be used during staff lunch time and breaks.

If you have any further concerns regarding the use of cameras please do not

hesitate to speak to Sam , Starting Point manager.

