

The Little Learners Story

Chapter I

In the beginning ...

Parents are 1st educators and responsible for their child's introduction to learning. At 'Little Learners 123' we acknowledge that each family is unique and that play is universal. We therefore provide valuable learning opportunities for all families to enjoy in a small group setting. This service is offered to children under three years.

Following retirement Joan and Ken Poole set up 'Little Learners 123' in September 2001. Their daughter Susan suggested the idea, having attended Parent and Toddler groups in the Buckingham area with her daughter Amy. Susan was concerned that Amy was vulnerable with older and more active children around. Smaller age appropriate groups became the topic of our discussions/debates, considering how parents could enjoy quality time with their children in a supportive groups setting. Susan assisted us with the initial set up and attended group with Amy during our first term. Our first groups started in Buckingham at The Well Street Centre and we were overwhelmed with interested families. Each of the groups set up were full and parents commented, that they valued the time spent with their children and found the handouts on child development and parenting both interesting and useful.

to be continued next issue

Poem

There's something in my pocket,
Belongs across my face,
I keep it very close at hand,
In a most convenient place.

I'm sure you'll never guess it,
If you guess a long, long while,
So I'll take it out and put it on,
It's a Little Learner smile.

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'the best thing you can give your child is time'

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NEWS & INFORMATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

Little Learners 123 celebrated their 2nd Anniversary, a wonderful start to the New Year. Magic Ian entertained and all those that



attended enjoyed the party. Those too small were able to play with a selection of Little Learners 123 toys. The press came along and took some photos, one of which was in the Bucks Herald the following week. Little Learners 123 continues

to grow and if we carry on at this rate our next celebration is likely to be at the Civic Centre!

(Photos are available from Little Learners 123 and The Bucks Herald).

QUOTATION

'The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it'.

Elbert Hubbard

• Giving parents & children the opportunities to learn •

Making a winner

- Help your child understand that learning can be a communal rather than an individual experience. While many children will be happy to read or play alone, remember that games and toys were not invented in order to keep children quiet. Take time to share their experiences when playing, however trivial they may seem, and encourage them to verbalise their thoughts and reactions.
- If your child copes easily with schoolwork, aim to enrich his learning rather than accelerate it. Try visits to museums and galleries to explore particular areas of interest rather than pushing him to plough through to volume 36 of 'Biff and Chip'.
- Support your child's learning at home by taking an interest in what he is being taught at school - visit the library and ask for recommended websites.
- 'Your sister could read this backwards by the time she was your age!' Try to avoid comparing younger siblings with the glories of their elders: children learn in different ways and at different rates.
- The days when children were seen but not heard are long gone. Encourage your child to share conversations with your friends and engage him with 'open' questions that require more than a yes or no for an answer.

When it isn't raining ...

Visit the parks and open spaces in Aylesbury. Many have excellent play areas, where you can picnic and play. Those that we as grandparents would recommend are Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville and Bedgrove Park. If you know of others that you feel are worth a visit please let us know and we will pass on information through the newsletter. Plans are now in place for Summer activities that we will develop i.e. Picnic in Vale Park and the playschemes.



QUOTATION

If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them as you think you should and half as much money.

Esther Selsdon

Welcome to all the new families who have this term joined in the fun - enjoy!

We say congratulations to parents with new babies:-

Rebecca, a baby boy Alexander, a brother for Oliver
Alison, a baby boy Isaac, a brother for Joseph

Poem

I'm glad you called me Kate
Said a little girl
'Why' asked her mother
Because that's what all
the kids at school call me.

De-stress yourself

- Take time for yourself - try half an hour soaking in the bath with a couple of candles and some soft music.
- Eat sensibly. Stress plays havoc with blood sugar levels, and when these are out of kilter it can increase the pressure on your emotions. Eat little and often and drink lots of water as this will help flush stress hormones from your system.
- Avoid overly emotional language. Instead of saying 'this is awful and I can't stand it' say, 'this is a difficult time and I know I will get through it'.
- Try to get out of the house and do some exercise - even a simple walk around can be beneficial and, as you walk, try and look around at your surroundings.
- Talk to friends and family. It's really helpful to know that others have experienced the same problems and, you never know, you might get some useful tips!