

The Little Learners Story

Chapter 2

... here endeth retirement

Soon we had requests from families in Aylesbury to run groups there. Within three months we were set up at The Queens Park Centre, offering groups on a Monday. We have now been running for two years and have just celebrated our 2nd Anniversary. We held a party at The Alfred Rose Community Centre, entertained by Magic Ian. A total of 100 people attended and enjoyed the fun. Our groups continue to run in Buckingham each Friday and now run over three days in Aylesbury. Joan and Ken had planned to run only on one day in each town ... so much for retirement - but what fun!

With many interested friends around us and a great deal of help 'Little Learners 123' has grown rapidly. Setting up the idea, creating a logo and statements has made 'Little Learners 123' popular and unique. Our thinking that 'the best thing you can give your child is time' has described accurately the nature of the business. Once attending and relaxed, parents and children enjoy a variety of activities together that gives 'parents and children equal opportunities to learn and succeed'

At 'Little Learners 123' we aim to provide parents and children with adequate support, so they may enjoy time together, having fun while learning new skills. We respond in a positive way offering structured sessions that focus on play. Providing a happy and relaxed environment is important at 'Little Learners 123'. Facilitators will create the atmosphere that promotes learning and encourage both parents and children in the learning process.

We are now planning to run play schemes throughout the summer and are currently looking for a suitable venue. Families will be welcome to bring along older siblings and family friends.

With so much happening 'Little Learners 123' will be looking for assistance during the summer break. We will therefore be interested to hear from people available to help us at that time.

We will continue to be in a position to offer places at 'Little Learners 123'. Each term some children leave us to attend schooling and new children join us. Places for babies are always available, with opportunities for parents to attend days and sessions of their choice. In Aylesbury we now run over 3 days, with additional groups if existing sessions remain full.

to be continued ...

QUOTATION

'If there's a way to do it better ... find it'.

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

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• NEWS & INFORMATION •

Spring into Summer at Little Learners 123!

Spring has arrived along with many new families and some that have been before now attending with new babies. Welcome to you all. A special welcome to those attending the new baby group in Buckingham, now into our third week, the babies have changed and appear not so new!

Those of you joining other established groups, please join in the fun - enjoy, laugh, sing and play with us.



Each new term we introduce new toys and activities. Painting is available to all groups and a variety of interesting puzzles and games to challenge both Parents and Children. Watching the groups develop as they enjoy sing-song time is a delight, especially as many Children sing along, clap or move to the music. Thank you Children for showing such appreciation.

Noticing how Children choose their favourite activities even when unable to ask is a constant joy to watch for both Parents and Facilitators. All Children make known their needs, it is our job to pick up the cues/signs and respond. Parents at 'Little Learners 123' do this very well.

Well done to all Parents for investing such valuable 'Time' in both their Children and the group. It is your interest and commitment that makes 'Little Learners 123' work so well.

QUOTATION

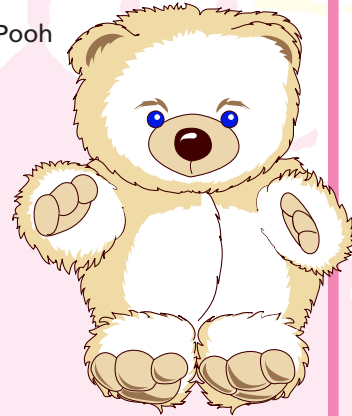
'Families that play together stay together'.

• Giving parents & children the opportunities to learn •

Remember ...

that looking at books and reading stories helps to develop a Child's interest in reading. Start with pictures and then move on to short stories, rhymes and later more involved tales. We have many different books on display at each group, some will become favourites if not already and all can be enjoyed during and usually at the end of the group, have a look at something new to you.

A Taste of A.A. Milne
who wrote of Winnie the Pooh



Halfway down the stairs
Is a stair
Where I sit
There isn't any
Other stair
Quite like
It.

I'm not at the bottom,
I'm not at the top;
So this is the stair
Where I always
Stop.

Halfway up the stairs
Isn't UP,
And it isn't DOWN,
It isn't in the nursery,
It isn't in the town.

And all sorts of funny thoughts
Run around my head:
It isn't really
Anywhere!
It's somewhere else instead!

A Bear however hard he tries,
Grows tubby without exercise.
Our teddy bear is short and fat,
But do you think it worries him
To know that he is far from slim?
No just the other way about -
He's proud of being short and stout.

QUOTATION

'The mind is like a parachute, it works better when it's open'.

Birth Congratulations!

Cerelia a sister for Auden,
congratulations to Emma and Greg



Attending a group for small babies may beg the question "What can you do in such a group?"

Initially small babies require feeding and spend a great deal of time consuming basic care. They also need your attention in many other ways like hearing the sound of your voice and having opportunities to see all that is around them. At 'Little Learners 123' we provide an interesting, restful but stimulating environment. Understanding the needs of your Child is the first step to providing an age appropriate experience for each day. When very small, Infants like to watch, listen and interact with individuals preferably a Parent. At 'Little Learners 123' we encourage this interaction through singing and gentle play activities. Small Children can be alarmed by too much activity and then choose not to interact. They have a wonderful way of informing us of when enough is enough by crying, turning away or having a nap. It is important to be aware of when your Child is receptive and not force activities when they may be tired, or not ready or interested, watching your Child will provide this invaluable information.

Parents of new Babies are encouraged to sit, rest and enjoy each session, watching your Child is as beneficial as interacting and each Child will be happy to have you present even if just watching. Eventually talking with your Child about their chosen toy will form part of an enjoyable session. Remember our Children are not always ready to engage with all around them but are always delighted in our interest when shown as they choose to look at or pick up an object they like.

At 'Little Learners 123' we are aware of these limitations and offer activities that will promote interest in play and encourage Parents to explore new and proven ideas. Our challenge is to consider the changing needs offering more complex but still fun toys and equipment. Having fun as we play is paramount and each Child attending will soon seek out favourite activities or stories.

Reading or singing to a Child will provide time for Parents to rest/relax and regain energy for the next activity! This applies to all age groups. Our experience tells us that Children love to sing/listen to familiar songs so at 'Little Learners 123' we plan our sessions with care to ensure Children recognise the tunes over time, and once able, do join in. Singing to your Child can be a pleasant and enjoyable time, at bedtime a calming music session can provide the necessary atmosphere for both Parents and Child to relax after a busy day. Try out some Children's tapes or some of the more gentle classics. As you know we have become dependant on Mozart we play it in the background as we play. We are now venturing out and attempting to introduce you to Chopin and others but I fear we have all become addicted to Mozart - we won't give up though!

QUOTATION

'There is no-such thing as a 'NON-WORKING MUM'