

# The Little Learners Story

## Chapter 3

Parents value the opportunity to attend the friendly and relaxed groups, each group lends itself to making new friends. Most established groups choose to stay together until such times as children start pre-school. It has become apparent over the 1st two years of 'Little Learners 123' that the structure of the sessions provides adequate support to prepare children for pre-school, nursery and school.

Once participating in the 2 year old + groups all children experience important routines and activities to channel their energies and encourage essential skills. Enjoying such group activities as painting, drawing and crafts boosts confidence and interests.

All those children attending groups on a regular basis are invited to join in singing, they choose their favourite songs and participate in many different action rhymes. Both parents and children noticeably enjoy singing, encouraged by the friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Each session is held in a supportive environment and run by experienced facilitators.

As we continue to develop the idea we respond to parents requests for specific activities and take on board their ideas. Parents have been delighted to meet up during the long summer break. We held picnics in both Buckingham and Aylesbury. The picnic in the Vale Park was enjoyed by more than 100 - a cross section of families and friends. We enjoyed a sing-song session, played with the toys and generally had a great time. The local press visited and our picture appeared in the Bucks Herald - let's do it again!

**Playschemes will be running through August at Meadowcroft in Aylesbury and Winslow. Please ask us for further details.**

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 4 days, with additional groups if existing sessions remain full.

### QUOTATION

'Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home!' Bill Cosby

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

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Issue Eight

## • NEWS & INFORMATION •

### Summer's here at last ...

along with plans to move into new premises. We have been happy at Queen's Park and will miss the centre. Moving to



Elmhurst School will give us more space, additional sessions and the opportunity to store all our equipment. The room will be available from September, is self-contained and lends itself to developing the service 'Little Learners 123'. Joan and Ken will be

spending time during the summer break at Elmhurst School. We would welcome visitors and we plan to hold an Open Day.

### A DAY OUT ... at Bucks Railway's 'Charity Day'

Sunday 20th June from 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. Many stalls.

• Giving parents & children the opportunities to learn •



## Noah's Ark

**ONE:** Don't miss the boat.

**TWO:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

**THREE:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**FOUR:** Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**FIVE:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**SIX:** Build your future on high ground.

**SEVEN:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**EIGHT:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**NINE:** When you're stressed, float awhile.

**TEN:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**ELEVEN:** No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.



**Birth Congratulations!**  
Sheryl & Geoff, a baby brother Henry James for Rosina  
Oscar, a baby brother for Bailey  
Julie & Damien, a baby sister Caitlin for Keely and Livia



## Simple Things Please Little Minds

Some toys have their place in a home. They are a good distraction and a useful aid when trying to amuse your child. However, there are times when toys are cast aside for a newer, more interesting game or challenge. Trying to combine jobs around the home and spending time with your child can be challenging and sometimes frustrating.

Below are a few tips on how to combine work with play, that is, keeping your little one entertained whilst giving you the opportunity to catch up on some chores, at the same time your child will feel involved in the activity you are doing.

**Cleaning cupboards** - Let them take out cans or packets of food from a low cupboard. Once they have emptied this you can clean any shelves and then they can enjoy the task of restocking them.



**Making juice** - Cut oranges or any other citrus fruit in half and let your child squeeze out the juice using a citrus press. Your assistance will be required here.

**Helping with the laundry** - Ask you child to match up clean socks, ideally, different coloured pairs.



**Washing the car** - Place your child in a car seat or let them sit freely in the driver's seat of your car. They will enjoy seeing the car being splashed with soapy water. Let them listen to their favourite music tape/CD whilst doing this.

*Tips from Tatjana, mother to Anna.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Be aware that small children must be supervised at all times. Never leave your child unattended in a car with easy access to controls.

*'The more people have studied different methods of bringing up children, the more they have come to the conclusion that what good mothers and father instinctively feel like doing for their babies is best after all!' Dr. Benjamin Spock*