



Barleyfields Children's Centre Parent Forum

21 June 2011

Woolmer Green Village Hall

Notes of Meeting

Item	Notes	To Do
1	Sue expressed her thanks to parents for their input to the Children's Centre.	
2	<p>Notes of the last meeting</p> <p>The notes of the last meeting on 16 March were discussed.</p> <p>Feedback was received that Family Fun is "fantastic".</p> <p>In respect of the mobile toy library, families would really appreciate a catalogue so that they can see the items that they can choose from.</p>	Sue to contact Broadwater Children's Centre to ask how this is progressing.
3	<p>Update from Sue</p> <p>Sue fed back some of the requests from families and how these have been met by Barleyfields. These are set out at the end of this document.</p>	
4	<p>Open discussion – ideas and feedback from parents</p> <p>Parents gave positive feedback praising the "community feel", the importance of activities which are affordable to everyone, and saying that Barleyfields is "the nicest children's centre" they have been to.</p>	

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4 continued	<p>Open discussion – ideas and feedback from parents</p> <p>Sue clarified the remit of children’s centres as being to provide services and activities to families with children aged from 0-5 years. The full core offer includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Links to good quality early years provision ○ Support for all children and families including those with additional needs ○ Support for parents through toddler groups and parenting programmes ○ Support for Childminders through networks and groups ○ Links with JobCentre Plus, training and higher education providers ○ Links to antenatal, child and family health services ○ Advice and information for parents and carers. ○ Signposting to support services. <p>When thinking about the services on offer, feedback was that it is a shame that we don’t have an outdoor area that is fenced as it is quite difficult for parents to keep an eye on children in such an open space.</p> <p>It has been suggested that Rhyme Time on a Friday afternoon will be extended so that it starts earlier for children to play and parents to have a chance to catch up with each other.</p> <p>Snack time at Stay and Play is much better now that we use the blue tables but a member of staff should supervise the snack table, all parents and children should be asked to sit up at the tables, and everyone should be reminded to return their cups and bowls to the counter.</p>	
5	<p>Plans for Summer 2011</p> <p>It was suggested that it would be a good idea to include activities for children from 0-8 years.</p>	<p>Sue to draft some guidelines around hot drinks, snack time etc</p>

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	Other ideas suggested were a sports day, themed arts and crafts, den building, healthy eating and cooking (smoothies).	Sue to finalise and circulate summer programme.
6	<p>Volunteering</p> <p>Discussing volunteering opportunities at the Children’s Centre. There is a volunteers pack that can be sent to anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer. In order to comply with safeguarding procedures, it is necessary to ask people to complete a short registration form, to apply for a CRB check and to provide details of two people who will give references.</p>	
7	<p>Hot Drinks</p> <p>During Child Safety Week we are carrying out a consultation about hot drinks. Feedback received at the Parent Forum indicated that parents really appreciate having a coffee.</p>	
8	<p>Encouraging Parents to attend the Forum</p> <p>Parents suggested a big, bold display asking for input from parents at the next Forum.</p> <p>It would be lovely to see more parents at the next Parent Forum as we welcome and value all suggestions and contributions. If parents are not able to attend the Forum they are welcome to speak to one of the Parent Representatives who will bring their views and questions to the Forum on their behalf. Please contact the Children’s Centre who will arrange for one of the Parent Representatives to get in contact.</p>	
9	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Monday 7 November 7.30 – 9 pm</p>	

Grandparents asked for a longer singing and story time with musical instruments and puppets at Stay and Play.

Barleyfields Children's Centre responded by providing this as appropriate for the children at each session.

Parents asked for outdoor play with ride-on toys and parachute games.

Barleyfields Children's Centre responded by providing ride-on toys from Broadwater Toy Library at some sessions and planning Picnic & Parachute sessions for the summer programme.

Families said that snack time at Stay and Play needs to be safer, calmer and fairer.

Barleyfields Children's Centre responded by buying more tables so that children can sit up for their snack, and by supervising children taking snack.

Families suggested that Barleyfields Children's Centre stops offering hot drinks and provides a wider range of cold drinks.

Barleyfields Children's Centre responded by carrying out a consultation during Child Safety Week in June 2011.

Families asked for information on finding a pre-school and when to do this.

Barleyfields Children's Centre are working with local early years settings to produce a fact sheet for families.

Parents asked that Children's Centre staff encourage children over 9 months to access Rhyme Time to maintain the calmness of Baby Group.

Barleyfields Children's Centre will consider extending the Toddler Rhyme Time session to accommodate the older babies.

