newsletter

Harpenden Children's Centre - Winter 2011

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2011. After months of anxiety about the future of children's centres we are delighted to be able to tell you that Hertfordshire County Council has committed to keep all of its 82 centres. Funding across the county is staying at the same level in cash terms as last year; however there are winners and losers.

Our funding for the Harpenden Centres remains the same for 2011/12 and increases the following year. We will need to budget carefully to incorporate higher costs but at least I can keep my wonderful, hard working and committed team.

In this month's newsletter you will find information on both our regular and new activities and events. Check out what's on and please let us know of any other services that would be of benefit to you.

Pat Everett
Harpenden Children's Centre Manager

Volunteers

Can you spare a couple of hours a week to help run the children's centre services?

If you would like to support families with young children and share your skills outside the home – we would love to hear from you. Support and training is available.

Volunteering can support you in gaining new skills, building confidence and upgrading your CV. For further information please give us a call on 01582 714 210 or email admin.harpenden@hertschildrenscentres.org.uk.

Understanding & managing your under fives

A session for Dad's only that we are running again as the last session was so popular! Toddlers and pre-schoolers are all learning the rules, testing the boundaries and often driving their parents nuts in the process. This free evening workshop for dads will take place on Tuesday 29th March 2011 from 8.00-9.30pm. It will be an informal session with the opportunity to discuss behaviour management and give strategies and tips for supporting and managing your under fives. Please contact the children's centre reception on 01582 714 210 to book your place.

The Parenting Puzzle – do you want more from your family life?

If you would like to learn new skills and tips for nurturing your family; boost your confidence; meet other parents and get on better with your children – book a place on this fun and supportive course. Starting on Wednesday 2nd March from 7.00-9.00pm and running for 10 weeks, the course is open to any parent with a child aged between two and 10 years old. Places are limited – please call 01582 714 210 or email the children's centre to register.

Helping families to:

Be Healthy
Stay Safe
Enjoy & achieve
Make a positive contribution
Achieve economic well-being

Learning with your child through play and music

Explore how your child learns through play and music and how to encourage this. Book onto a free session on Thursday 10th March at 10am.

This session will be run by one of Harpenden Children's Centre Outreach workers and a teacher of Monkey Music – voted the best national pre-schooler activity 2010.

Parent & child coffee mornings

Harpenden Children's Centre working in partnership with Batford Methodist Church holds a parent & child coffee morning each month .

This is an opportunity to meet others in the community and talk to an outreach worker for advice on issues including health, parenting and family support, child care.

From 10.00-11.30am at Batford Methodist Church Hall, Lower Luton Road (opposite Tesco):
Friday 18th February
Friday 18th March
Friday 15th April
Friday 20th May

Childcare Choices

Thinking of returning to work? Considering your choices for pre-school education? Confused about funding and the free entitlement? Concerned about the application process for school places?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, why don't you come along to our next free information session on Monday 14th March at 1.15pm. It is an opportunity to talk with children's centre staff and to take away information on local early years' provision. There will be information and advice to help you demystify the childcare puzzle. Please call to register.

Twins workshop – if you are the parent of twins and would be willing to share your knowledge in a session with parents of younger twins please get in touch with us on 01582 714 210.

CommonSENse is a Harpenden and surrounding villages parent support group for parents/carers of children with any Special Educational Need. The group usually meets one Monday evening a month at the **Salvation Army, Leyton Green, Harpenden, AL5 2TG**.
If your child has had a recent diagnosis and you don't where to turn or you know in your heart of hearts that 'something's wrong' with your child but you don't know what, you can be assured of a warm welcome, a listening ear and a totally supportive environment to chat in complete confidence. Contact Gail Traviss – commonsense.harpenden@hotmail.com for further information

Regular events:
Register with the children's centre to find out about our regular courses and free information sessions including the About Boys Course, First Aid and Childcare Choices.

Weekly events taking place at Harpenden Children's Centre

Day	Session	Venue	Information	Time
Mon	Monday Group	Magpie Room	Invitation only	9.45-11.45am
	Opportunity Class	Magpie Room	Supporting young children with significant delay or learning difficulties Referrals only.	1.00–3.00pm
Tues	Monkey Club	Magpie Room	Supported Mother & toddler group. By application only.	9.30-11.30am
	Post-natal group	Chaffinch Room	A series of information and advice sessions with a different topic each week, usually led by a Health Visitor or Doctor.	Call/see website for the programme.
Wed	Toy Library	Magpie Room	An opportunity for your child to try out new toys. Registration fee & hire costs apply.	9.30-11am
	Baby Clinic	Chaffinch Room	Weekly clinic run by the health visitors.	1.00-3.00pm
	Opportunity Class	Magpie Room	As above	1.00-3.00pm
Thurs	Monkey Club	Magpie Room	As above	9.30-11.30am
	Opportunity Class	Magpie Room	As above	Every 2 weeks 1pm-3pm
	Post natal drop-in group	Southdown Centre	Drop-in group providing an opportunity to talk to our outreach team and meet other local families.	1.15-2.45pm
Fri	Post natal drop-in clinic	Chaffinch Room	Meet other parents over a coffee and chat to a health visitor if you have any queries.	10am-12pm
	NCT network toddler group	Magpie Room	For further details email – newharpotoddlers@gppelemail.com	3.30-4.30pm

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