



Kintore Way Children's Centre
Grange Road
London SE1 3BW
Tel: 020 7525 1196 Fax: 020 7231
3953
Email:
kintorewayoffice@southwark.gov.uk
Headteacher: Sharon Donno

Kintore Way Children's Centre Newsletter November 2008

Dear Parents and Carers

Winter is fast approaching and the need to keep our children warm often results in lost hats, gloves etc. Please can we remind everyone to put their child/family name in clothes, coats, wellies and any other items their child might bring to the Centre? Hats and gloves can look very similar and we know how upsetting it is if they become lost. We are also asking you not to give your child sweets or other food items to bring in their pockets, please save them until you collect him or her at the end of the session. All of the children are offered fruit and other snacks as part of our healthy eating policy. Thank you. There will be much to enjoy over the coming weeks and I look forward to sharing it all with you.

Sharon

Keep us up to date

Could we please ask all parents and carers to make sure that we have the correct contact details for you, including emergency contacts? We have experienced some difficulties recently with changes to mobile telephone number which have not been passed on to the office. If your child is unwell, has an accident or needs to go home urgently, we need to reach you as quickly as possible so if any of your contact information has changed please give the updated information to the office.

Full Time Places in the Over Three's Section

At present there are a mixture of full and part time places available in the over three's section. National and local government policy will affect how full time places are allocated in the future. All children are offered a part time place and full time places are given subject to availability. The Centre admissions policy also considers the needs of working/studying parents, children with special needs and families with issues around safeguarding or well being. No guarantees can be given that a child will access a full time place although every child will be considered at the appropriate time.

A few reminders

- If your child has an upset stomach or bug which has caused vomiting or diarrhoea they must be kept at home for 48hours (two days) after the symptoms finish. This helps to reduce the risk of passing it on to others and makes your child less vulnerable to other infections during their recovery.
- Please ensure that your child does not wear jewellery to the Centre other than small ear hoops/studs in pierced ears. Chains, bracelets and large hooped earrings can be dangerous in active play as well as being liable to breakage and loss.
- If you have to bring your child to the centre by car, please park responsibly. Some parents are parking on pavements, double parking or blocking the end of Fort Place. I know that for some of you time is short if you are off to work or college but the safety of all our children must come first. Please make sure that walking parents and children can move safely without having to go into the road unnecessarily in order to pass a thoughtlessly parked car.
- Your children love playing with water. We try to prevent clothes getting wet and help to change children who need it but we do need your help. Please encourage your child to push sleeves up and wear protective clothing and also to tell their key worker if their clothes get wet. Staff will try to become even more vigilant and together we will do our very best to ensure that the children can explore the water safely.

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Shoes for Africa collection. Some parents expressed a willingness to donate grown out of shoes at other time so we thought we would let you know that Clarke's shoe shops in Peckham and Lewisham continue to refurbish shoes to send to needy areas. If you would like to continue the good works please take your unwanted shoes to Clarke's shops when you are doing you're shopping. Also, thanks to those who have already contributed good ideas to the suggestion box. Your positive ideas and suggestions are very welcome.

Resource Detectives

The staff in River and Rainforest rooms will be happy to receive any of the following items to support the curriculum:

- Clean yoghurt pots
- Small cardboard cartons
- Conkers, pine cones etc
- Different coloured Autumn leaves

The staff in Orchard and Desert rooms are developing a program of heuristic play sessions for the babies where they are encouraged to explore collections of objects, including natural materials, in a relaxed and unhurried way so that they can use all of their senses to improve their understanding and experience of the world around them. The staff would be happy to receive any of the following items providing they are in a clean and safe condition:

Rollers

Coffee and Baby Milk Tins (empty)
Balls (various shapes)
Ribbon
Stones
Small baskets
Bangles

Chains

Pine Cones
Keys
Bath plugs
Sponges
Shower hoses

Corks

Magnets
Fabric
Spoons
Lids
Kitchen Roll tubes
Pegs

Christmas and End of Term Celebrations

We would like to invite you share in our Christmas celebrations and ensure that as many of our children as possible take part. Christmas lunch will be held on 11th December for all full time children attending. I'm sure our cook, Hermine, will do us proud again.

The last day of the school term will be on 19th December which is party day. In order to meet the needs of our working families we will operate for normal session times and both breakfast and after school clubs will happen as usual. Any of our full time or afternoon families who wish to collect their children early from River or Rainforest Rooms on that day will be welcome from 2.30pm.

It has been the policy of the nursery school for several years to provide families with the creative materials to help their child to make one Christmas card to share with their class. This is not only environmentally friendly but also an enjoyable shared experience for parents and children. We do understand that some parents also wish to send individual cards to their child's friends. Parents are therefore invited to place any individual cards they may wish to send in the take home box for their children's friends. As this means that they are not given out at the end of a session it avoids the chance that some children may be empty handed and it also means that parents who may not be able to afford to send individual cards do not feel under pressure.

Services for Parents and Carers

New CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Worker

My name is Jill Thompson and I am the new CAMHS worker attached to Kintore Way and the other Children's Centres in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe area.

My role is to offer advice and support to families and staff with regard to children's emotional wellbeing, behaviour issues and general mental health. If there are complex problems I can also help you to access more specialised services within CAMHS.

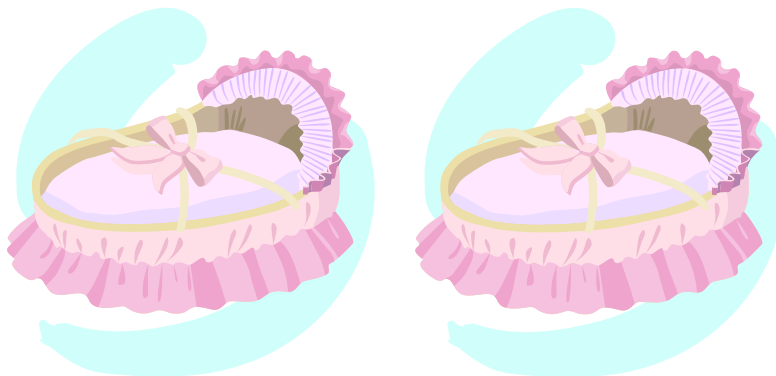
I have a counseling background and specialise in relationship therapy and postnatal depression. I have come from a Children's Centre in Wandsworth where I worked for the FWA running postnatal depression

support groups and parenting programmes. I hope to be a visible presence soon at Kintore Way visiting the various groups and drop INS to say hello. In the meantime if there any issues you feel I may be able to help you with you can either ask for a worker you know to refer to me or you can contact me on my work mobile 07968376061 or the CAMHS office no.020 3228 7100 I would be delighted to hear from you.

PARENTS ADVICE

Please come along and have a chat with me at one of the PARENT/CARER ADVICE SESSIONS at Kintore Way on Tuesday mornings 9am-11:30am or Friday afternoons 1pm-4pm. You can also email me at elaine.bailey@southwark.gov.uk. Or call me on 0207 525 0045. IT'S GOOD TO TALK.

Elaine Bailey



Following on from my article in October's newsletter, I thought I would set you all a quiz on Tax Credits. Work out who is eligible for Child Tax Credit (CTC) Working Tax Credit (WTC), neither or both of them out of the following scenarios:-

(Answers later on separate page).

Go on, have a go...you may find that one of these matches your situation and you've not claimed yet!

1. Huda has two children ages 15 & 17 years old both living with her. She is working 10 hours per week.
2. Sue, age 30, and Isaac, age 33, are separated and their 9 year old son lives with Sue for half of the week. He lives with Isaac the other half of the week. Isaac is working 40 hours per week and he also claims Child Benefit.

3. Amy is separated with two children ages 5 and 7 years. She works part-time for 21 hours per week. She recently received an inheritance of £25,000.
4. *Sadea is a lone parent aged 24 years and she is doing a full-time degree course at university.*
5. Clare is 15 years old and she has just had a baby.
6. *Sue is married to Youssef and they have living with them a daughter aged 20 who is studying full-time at university and a son who is 18 and doing his A levels. Youssef works 40 hours per week and earns £45,000 per year.*
7. Francesca is 24 years old and working 35 hours per week.
8. *George is 52 years old and has been receiving Jobseekers Allowance for the last 8 months. He accepted a job working 24 hours per week and will start in 5 days' time.*
9. Barbara is 22 years old and works 35 hours per week. She is in receipt of the highest care component of disability living allowance.
10. *Peter is aged 44 and has been off work for the last 4 months and receiving statutory sick pay. He was working 18 hours per week.*
11. Hannah is aged 26 and is working 24 hours per week.

Quiz by Debbie Morey, Sure Start Adviser, Blackfriars Advice Centre

If you think you may be entitled to claim WTC or CTC, then make a claim by telephone to the Tax Credit Office on:- 0845 300 9000 8 am – 8 pm.

If you are having any problems with your tax credit claim and need free, confidential and independent advice, please note that Debbie is available in your area as follows:-

*Mondays (not Bank Holidays) 10 am – 12 pm Kintore Way Children's Centre, Grange Road, SE1

*Thursdays (term time only) 2 – 4 pm Rotherhithe Early Learning & Parents' Centre, Rotherhithe Primary School, Rotherhithe New Road, SE16

*By email: - debbie.morey@blackfriars-advice.com

*By telephone (direct line):- 020 7358 5995 (voicemail – leave a message)



ESOL (English speaking) Classes on Tuesdays at 1.00pm

Parent and Toddler groups, on Monday afternoons with Baby Music and on Thursday mornings and afternoons.

We will be hosting a coffee morning for parents and carers on Wednesday 3rd December between 9.30 and 11.00am in Mountain Room - please come and join us if you can.

Calling all dads

Our next 'Father's Day' Saturday breakfast will be on 29th November from 9.00 - 11.00am. There will be a wide variety of play activities available and, of course, food! This time we will be offering a Continental Breakfast including coffee and croissants. In February (28th) we will host a pancake party so put that date in your new diary so you don't miss it! Come and share some quality time with your under fives and tuck in.

Farewell

We are sad to say that Joyce Raj will be leaving Kintore Way at the end of term after nearly twenty year's service. She has loved every moment of her time with us but now has the opportunity to spend more time on her other loves which include gardening and voluntary project work. I'm

sure you will join me in wishing Joyce every happiness in her new pursuit's safe in the knowledge that her Kintore Way family are just a visit away.

Would you consider being a governor?

In January we will be recruiting for a parent governor to join the Governing Body of Kintore Way. We will send out a separate letter in the New Year with all the necessary information so please look out for it.

ANSWERS TO TAX CREDITS SCENARIOS QUIZ

1. Huda is eligible for CTC but not for WTC, unless she increases her hours to 16 hours per week.
2. *One of them is eligible for CTC and the other nothing. Note: CTC payment does not always follow who is paid Child Benefit, but in practice, TCO usually does so. Tax Credit Office (TCO) prefers it if both members of a couple agree who has Child Benefit and who has CTC. Isaac is entitled to WTC as he works more than 30 hours per week, even if he isn't paid CTC.*
3. Amy is eligible for both. The capital (inheritance) is irrelevant except if she gets an income from it, but if she did it would not be enough to count.
4. *Sadea is eligible for CTC*
5. Clare is not eligible for either CTC or WTC because you have to be 16 years old to qualify. Clare's mum could claim for her and her baby as qualifying young person and child and be eligible for CTC.
6. *Sue and Youssef are eligible for both CTC and WTC. CTC because they have a qualifying young person (son) and WTC because Youssef is working over 16 hours per week.*
7. Francesca is not eligible for either CTC or WTC. She is not old enough now. If she continues to work for 30 hours or more, on her 25th birthday she will be eligible for WTC, but not CTC if she has no children.
8. *George is eligible for WTC as he is over 50 and was on qualifying benefit for at least 6 months.*
9. Barbara is eligible for WTC under the disability rule
10. *Peter is not eligible for either CTC or WTC because he is under 50 and he is not working enough hours. To qualify, he must work 30+ hours per week, as he has no children.*
11. Hannah is not eligible for either CTC or WTC because she has no dependant children and is not working enough hours per week.

Get the diary out

11th December - "The Christmas Cake" entertainment show for children.

11th December - Christmas lunch.

16th December 2.30pm - Christmas production for parents of River Room children.

17th December 11.00am - Christmas production for parents of part time morning children in River and Rainforest Rooms.

17th December 2.30pm - Christmas production for parents of Rainforest Room children.

18th December 2.00pm - Graduation for parents of all children who are leaving the Centre.

19th December - Christmas Party.

23rd December - Under three's concert. Please ask in rooms for further details.

Happy Christmas Holiday to everyone. See you in January!