



Lisa's Letter

Welcome

Welcome to my third newsletter. I can't believe that we are already in 2013 but would like to wish all my children and parents a very Happy New Year.

Please find attached to this newsletter one updated and one new policy. I have also attached a contact update form to ensure that I have the most up to date address and phone numbers for you—please could you return this to me as soon as possible.

Whilst it is currently reasonably warm hats and gloves are always essential but please remember the when it gets colder. Please also remember to ensure that I have either got spare named clothes here or that they are in your child's bag for the day. Could I also ask if all school aged children could supply either an old shirt or an apron to protect school uniform to be left at my house for when we do painting. Please ensure that this is named.

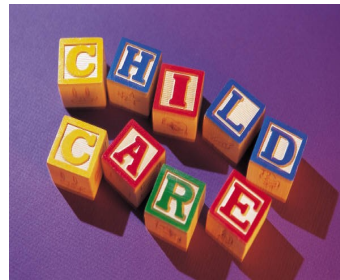
Winter 2013

In the next month we have 2 big cultural celebrations that are happening—the first close to my heart being Australia Day—and the second Chinese New Year. We will look to celebrate these with activities and hopefully some taste testing. We will find out what sign the children are and look at some of the Chinese beliefs and traditions.

Valentine's day will provide an opportunity for more crafts

and some cooking.

We will also be taking time to look forward to Easter at the end of March/start of April. Again the opportunity to do lots of crafts and once again an Easter Egg hunt in the garden if the weather is good enough.



Starters and leavers

A quick update on the children that I look after.

New starters

Sophia (4) and Georgia (13) joined us in September for 3 days a week.

Evie (1) and William (4) started just before Christmas. Evie is with us on Tuesday and Wednesday and her brother William will be with us on Tuesdays before and after nursery and Wednesday

before nursery.

Savanna joins us this week and will be with us at a range of times to match her mum's work pattern

Leavers

Darcy was only with us a short time and left as her mum stopped working.

Oliver left us at the end of the school summer term as his sister started nursery.

Lisa's Childminding Service

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Dates to remember:

- Holiday
-

Lisa's



Childminding
Service

Teddy travels

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A home away from home



I am pleased that we now have the teddy bears and that they have been named. The boy bear is called "Aussie" and the girl "Summer". They have both already been on their travels and have made lots of diary entries about them including Wildwood, The Harvester for dinner, played in the snow, the dentist and all the children's rooms they have visited!) Summer also celebrated Millie's 1st birthday with her. Both the younger and the older children have enjoyed contributing to the diaries and then liked spending time listening or reading for themselves about Aussie and Summer's travels.

Both Aussie and Summer will continue their travels and I really appreciate the time and effort that the children put into the diaries (with your help as needed!)

REMINDER:

Please remember that when your child is ill there are a number of occasions when I am unable to care for them—this is to avoid causing any cross infection to other children in my care. The full list of illness and exclusion periods are in the copy of my portfolio—please ask if you would like another copy of the list.

Holiday dates

Lisa's holiday

1 November

Bank Holidays

29 March
1 April
6 and 27 May
26 August
25 and 26 December

WANTED

I have been able to register with Tesco's and Sainsbury to participate in their vouchers for schools scheme. Any vouchers would be much appreciated to help get more equipment for me to use with your children.

Toffee and Fudge, the guinea pigs, have also asked me to let you know if you ever have broccoli stalks or outside cabbage leaves that you don't want they will happily take them off your hands!



Sickness

If your child is/are ill or sick please call me to discuss this prior to leaving home and in reasonable time. This will allow us to make the best decision for the child and ensure that their illness does not impact on my ability to care for them or other children. When a child is unwell the best place for them is with their parents where they feel safe and secure and are able to recover quicker.

If your child is ill during the day I will contact you via the emergency details I have recorded and discuss any actions required.

In general the following apply:

- Any child suffering from vomiting or diarrhoea will not be allowed to attend for at least 48 hours after the sickness has stopped.
- Any child suffering from chickenpox will not be allowed to attend until all spots/blisters have scabbed over.
- Any child suffering from impetigo will not be allowed to attend until the rash has completely healed.
- Any child suffering conjunctivitis will not be able to attend whilst suffering symptoms.
- Any child suffering from any other form of contagious or infectious disease will require the “all-clear” from their GP.

Please refer to the table on the following page for more specific disease attendance criteria based on the Health Protection Agency “Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings”.

Whilst I respect individual confidentiality I have a duty to inform other parents of children that I care for, or that I am in regular contact with, of details of any illness that may affect others.

I will be as flexible as my skills and premises allow where a child has an injury or wound undergoing treatment but this should be discussed with me at the earliest opportunity to ensure that it is appropriate.

Diseases exclusion periods

Disease	Exclusion Period
Chest Infection	24hrs and until child feels well enough
Chickenpox/Shingles	Until after the last spot has scabbed over
Colds (Without Fever)	None as long as child feels well enough
Colds (With Fever)	24hrs after fever has cleared
Conjunctivitis	48hrs or until yellow discharge has cleared
Coughs (Without Fever)	None as long as child feels well enough
Croup	None as long as child feels well enough
Diarrhoea And Sickness	48hrs from last sight of diarrhoea and sickness
Ear Infection	24hrs and until child feels well enough
E.Coli, typhoid and dysentery	Subject to professional medical advice 48hrs from last sight of diarrhoea
'Flu (influenza)	Until recovered
German Measles	6 days after rash appears and until child feels well enough
Hand Foot And Mouth	Until scabs have cleared
Head Lice	Until treatment has been completed and child is free from live lice
Impetigo	Until spots are dried up
Measles	4 days after rash appears and until child feels well enough
Meningitis	Subject to professional medical advice until recovered
Mumps	5 days from diagnosis / onset of swelling
Ringworm On Body	24hrs after treatment has been given
Scabies	24hrs once cream has been applied
Scarlet Fever	Until course of antibiotics has been finished
Slap Cheek	Until recovered
Threadworm	24hrs after treatment has been given
Tonsillitis (Pharyngitis)	Child is infectious 3 days from sore throat, so should be kept away from children for this period
Verrucae And Warts	24hrs after treatment has been given
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

If your child has any other illness, disease or injury please contact me before attending with your child to discuss the situation and ensure that I am able to provide the care you require.

Potty Training

As a childminder I recognise the importance of potty training in the development of children.

There is no perfect age to start potty training but it is normally between 18 and 36 months but don't panic if it doesn't happen until a lot later as this is quite common

. Potty training does not have to be a battle and I will happily discuss with you when I feel it is right to start and how I would normally start potty training children.

The approach I take as with everything else is a joint one between you and me to make the transition as easy as possible for your child.

When a child is ready to start potty training I would normally encourage you to begin when you have a week or two at home so that your child is comfortable, has no school run, outings or activities to consider, or other distractions that may be occurring in my house. I will always support any ongoing training and am prepared for accidents of course, however what I am not prepared to do is have a child constantly wee/poo all over the place. I think that in itself is a health and safety issue.

When your child has stopped using nappies I supply a potty, toilet seat and a step stool (antibacterially cleaned after each use) but you are welcome to bring your child's own potty if you wish to. In order to assist me in keeping all the children in my care safe I usually ask to you to provide pull-ups as well as pants whilst your child is in my care for me to use when required eg whilst they sleep or are out in the pushchair.

I would expect to have plenty of changes of clothes supplied and feedback from you on how it is going at home on a regular basis.

Signs that your child maybe ready for potty training include:

- the being aware that they are wetting or soiling their nappy
- less frequent changes of nappy needed
- they understand the meaning of wet, dry, clean, wash and sit
- they can tell you they need to go toilet
- they understand and carry out simple instructions
- they can put on and take off their own pants
- they will sit and listen and enjoy a story
- they want to do "things by myself"
- you think it is the right time to start potty training.