



Lisa's Letter

Welcome

Welcome to my latest newsletter.

After a disappointing winter with little or no snow we are now starting to think towards spring.

Since my last newsletter we have been through quite a few changes:

- Zoe's short employment as my assistant which unfortunately didn't work out for either side
- Whitney and Tabby starting as my apprentice and assistant respectively
- A number of new starters.

As I have said before I do so hope that everyone is happy with the care they receive here but if you or your children have any concerns please let me know.

Reminder — no shoes

Despite previous reminders there are still a number of people who insist on wearing shoes (adults and children) past the double doors of the hall. Please remember to take them off if you are coming past here — this helps me both to keep my house clean but is also an important health and safety issue with young children crawling on the floor.

The next few months

Over the next few months we will be looking at a number of topics — Tabby, Whitney and I are currently planning these but initially we will look at spring being a period of new birth focusing on lambs and chicks (these also fit well with Easter!). Hopefully as the weather gets better we will also be able to spend more time in the garden and we will look at some of the older children planting some flowers and vegetables — might be able to do better than we did last year. If there is anything that is of particular interest to your child please do let me know and we will see if we can incorporate into the programme.

Clothing and spare clothing

As the weather gets better please remember that younger children will still need some spare clothes just in case they need changing or get wet. This is especially important for those who are potty training and may have accidents!

If you could remember waterproof coats for them in their bag as April showers can be quite heavy! Younger children should also have a set of "messy play" clothes in a separate carrier bag as we do painting and messy play most weeks but not always at the same time.

Please could you ensure that all baby wipes are labelled and also any pots of creams for nappy changes — this helps to avoid mix ups with the number of nappies we have to change!

For older children it is very useful to have a change of clothes / shoes at my house so that they can change after school especially if they do get wet in the rain. These should be in a named bag.

I also have a box by the front door with a range of items that belong to your children so please ask if you are missing something!

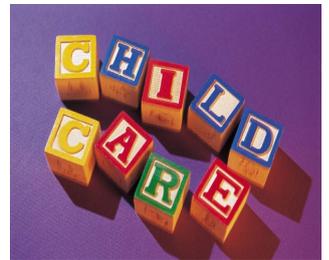
Thank you

I know it is a bit belated but with things being so hectic recently I haven't managed to get round to thanking you for all your lovely Christmas presents — they are really appreciated.

Lisa's Childminding
Service

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A home away from home

From the guinea pigs

Please could you let us have any newspapers that you have spare for our hutch. We also like cabbage leaves and broccoli stalks!

Starters and leavers

A quick update on the children that I look after.

New starters

Sidney has joined us after having recently lived in France. We have also welcome Jude and Esme and will be welcoming Isla after my holidays. We also saw Austin and Betty join for a short while and they will be putting in an appearance as their Mum's work necessitates.

Leavers

We are sad to say good bye to Florence, who's mum is taking a break from work, Angel and Taylor.

Other items

Following our recent visit to the ChildCareExpo we have introduced a couple o new things to the setting:

- Charlie — a large orangutan puppet that helps children with empathy, expression of feelings and building relationships — the children will talk to him where they don't want to talk to adults and may tell him what's troubling them rather than an adult
- Some simple sign-language to help the younger children communicate effectively before they can speak.

Please also remember that I have a wide range of **books** that can be borrowed by children. If you would like to borrow any book please let me know but I would also appreciate if you have any old books you no longer use that other children would enjoy if you would consider donating them to me.

Changes at home — if there are any significant changes to your home life or anything that might affect your child when in my care please do remember to let me know.

Working with other settings

If your child attends another EYFS setting eg a nursery please do let me know as I need to ask you to arrange for a letter to be signed so that I may discuss your child's progress with them. This is to ensure that all children progress and reach the Early Learning Goals set out as part of the governments EYFS programme:

THE PRIME AREAS

Communication and language
Physical development
Personal, social and emotional development

THE SPECIFIC AREAS

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the world
Expressive arts and design

WOW moments

I have been trying to work out home to incorporate more of the children's achievements outside of my setting and I would like to try using "WOW" moments. These are small slips of paper that you can use to record an achievement, something that made you go WOW at home and let us all know here. We will display them on one of the noticeboards to recognize your child's achievements. Please find one sheet attached — if you want more please let me know (I'll also add them to my website at www.barden.org.uk/parents).



Self registration

In order to help the younger children in my care start to recognise their name and develop a sense of themselves I have now started a self registration system that we will encourage all the younger ones to use when they arrive.

Lisa's holiday

Monday 11 April to Friday 15 April inclusive

Friday 12 August to Friday 26 August inclusive

Thursday 27 October to Friday 28 October inclusive

Thursday 22 December to Friday 30 December inclusive

Bank Holidays

Friday 25 March Bank Holiday

Monday 28 March Bank Holiday

Monday 2 May Bank Holiday

Monday 30 May Bank Holiday

Monday 29 August Bank Holiday

Monday 26 December Bank Holiday

Tuesday 27 December Bank Holiday

