

August 2025 Newsletter

Welcome!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new children and their families who have recently started with us at Drumchapel Early Years Centre and for those who will be starting with us over the coming weeks; we are looking forward to working with you all. If anyone has any questions about any aspect of our service, please feel free to speak to your child's key worker or ask to speak to myself, Catherine Cunningham, Head of Centre or Mary Devenny, Depute Head of Centre.

General Information

Care Inspectorate Questionnaires

Please can you check your inbox as we recently sent out a text to complete an online questionnaire for the Care Inspectorate about our service. Please can you respond to this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Nursery Handbook

We are currently in the process of updating our nursery handbook, however in the meantime the most up to date copy can be found on the Glasgow Information Service website; www.gfis.gov.uk this will provide you with more in-depth information about our service.

Standards and Quality Report

We recently sent a copy of our Standards and Quality report to everyone's mobile phones, if you have not received this, please let us know as there are paper copies available. This report provides everyone with an opportunity to learn about the improvements that we have made within our centre over the past academic year and what we intend to work on improving over this coming year.

Family Photographs

We would like to kindly ask for a family photograph that can be kept in a photo album for your child to share with their peers and staff in their playroom, the photo can be a picture of the family pet, a grandparent or a picture of anyone who the child has a connection with. Please can you write your child's full name on the back of the photo and the names of whoever is in the picture. Please can you hand in to your child's playroom. Thank you.

Secure Door Entry System

On arriving at the centre, you will notice that there is a buzzer system on the wall to allow you entry into the building, there should be an arrow indicating which buzzer to press, please wait until you see the green light on the buzzer system or listen for the click before attempting to open the door.

Entering the playroom

Please do not enter the playroom until you have been advised to do so, this helps us to ensure that there are appropriate adults in the room to receive the children or hand them over for collection. On entering the playroom, please ensure that the door is always closed tightly behind you as the safety of the children is paramount.

Registers

Staff in each playroom are responsible for completing the register when your child arrives/leaves the centre, there are always regular head counts throughout the day.

Cloakroom Area

We are currently in the process of changing our peg bags to smaller tote bags without drawstring. Each child will be allocated a different coloured peg bag to correspond with their key group, please note that all of these bags should be left at their allocated place. As some of the children share pegs, it means that we are very limited for space, therefore we would kindly ask that you do not leave spare jackets on your child's peg. The bag is purely for the purpose of storing a spare change of clothes including underwear or nappies for your child. We no longer have space to store blankets. Please do not leave any type of plastic bag on your child's peg.

Clothing

Please can you ensure that you label all of your children's belongings as this helps to avoid any confusion as many children can have the same item of clothing.

Toys

Please do not allow your child to bring toys to the centre or leave them in their peg bags, as this can be very distressing for the child, when they are not allowed access to them. We have a wonderful selection of resources for your child to access.



Annual Data Check

You may have been asked to complete an annual data check form, if so, please can you leave this at the front desk or hand it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Toilet Training

If you are thinking about starting to toilet train your child, please can you inform your child's keyworker who may be able to provide you with some useful hints and tips to try at home, before we implement it at nursery. Please note that we do not supply nappies or wipes.



Dummies

Due to cross contamination we will no longer be able to accept dummies that are handed over to a staff member, as I had mentioned previously if your child is of the age that they require a dummy to be used as a soother, then a new dummy should be provided to your child's keyworker who will place it in a secure tub with a lid, this dummy will remain at the nursery and will be cleaned after each use.



In accordance with NHS guidelines, the use of a dummy should stop when a baby is between six months and 12 months old.

Dummies can negatively affect speech development, particularly with prolonged or overuse past a child's first year, by reducing opportunities for babbling and practicing sounds, and by potentially leading to abnormal mouth muscle use, affecting articulation. This can result in difficulties with pronunciation, especially for front-of-mouth sounds, and may necessitate speech therapy to correct patterns of mumbling or unusual speech.

Outdoor Play

As all of our children access outdoor play on a daily basis, we would kindly ask that they are always suitably dressed for the weather.



Toy Fund

Lisa will be collecting toy fund every week with two children as they learn more about financial management, we would kindly ask for a donation of £1 per week, however if you pay by bank transfer, we will have a record of this, therefore no cash payments are required. Thank you.

Dogs

Dogs are forbidden from being on nursery/school grounds, please refrain from bringing any dogs near the centre as some of the children and adults are frightened of them.



Setting the Table Guidance

Setting the Table is Scotland's national nutritional guidance for Early Learning and Childcare settings and has been designed to support educators in promoting healthy growth, positive eating habits and a balanced diet for young children.

From Monday 1st September we will be moving on to a new lunch menu that will be displayed in the foyer for everyone to see.

This means that going forward:

- The children will only have plain water or milk to drink.
- We will no longer be able to accept birthday cakes for your child's birthday.
- They will have plain and unsweetened yoghurts.



If you would like more information about this, please use the following link:
www.gov.scot/publications/setting-table-guidance

My Learning Journals

We are in the process of changing to a new online portal called My Learning Journals whereby you will be able to access over time a personal account of your child's learning journey. Emma who is our Digital Leader of Learning is currently overseeing this process, beginning with asking all families to sign a permission slip, therefore if you have not been asked to sign a form yet, please can you let us know. As we have 120 children on our role, this will take some time to set up, as we learn how

to navigate the new system, so please bear with us, as soon as we are organised, we will let you know.

Initiatives

Cooking Classes

Over the coming months we are aiming to start a small series of cooking workshops with our families, Katie will be the lead on this. If this is something that you would be interested in taking part in, please let us know.

Play on Pedals

The pre-school children within our 3-5 playroom will be taking part in a series of play on pedals lessons in partnership with Drumchapel Cycle Hub, whereby they will be learning how to ride a balance bike with the view to progressing onto riding a two-wheel bike without stabilisers.



Play along Maths and Literacy for All

Laura will be taking the lead on delivering a small series of workshops with our pre-school children and their families on play along maths as well as literacy for all in the coming months, the play along maths proved to be a very successful home link initiative last term.



Stay and Play Sessions

We are going to reintroduce stay and play sessions, once all of our new children are settled. At the moment we can only offer this initiative within the 3-5s and possibly the 2-3s playrooms.

If this is something that you may be interested in, please let us know.

Think Equal

Roisin our acting team leader will be leading a series of Think Equal sessions with a small, targeted group of 3-5 children to support their social & emotional development. It is designed to highlight the importance of children identifying their own emotions. This is implemented through a variety of stories, group discussions along with musical and relaxation experiences.

Families Connect Programme

We are excited to provide the Families Connect Programme to some families this term. Over four weeks, Yvonne and Roisin will facilitate casual workshops using play-based activities, with support from Denise Millen to enhance their children's learning in three key areas:

- Social and emotional development
- Literacy and Communication skills
- Mathematics

Language of the month

Katie and Madeleine will be taking the lead on working with our EAL families as they aim to support our young learners to understand that their language is central to their identity, therefore, the home language of all children should be encouraged and celebrated on their learning journey with us. Going forward we will be celebrating a different language every month, starting with Spanish for the month of September.



Hello – hola

Goodbye – adiós

Toilet – baño

Wash your hands - lávese las manos

Snack time - hora de la merienda

Golden Rules

We are promoting our golden rules with all our children, please can you work on developing these at home as well. Thank you.

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Put your toys back where they belong when you are finished playing with them.
- We must not throw or break toys. **Notice Boards**

Please feel free to look at our notice boards within the centre as they have lots of different information on them that may be useful to you, we also have a large red notice board out in the foyer at the front door, this is beside our free to you stall.

Free to You Stall

When you enter the building to gain access to the centre, you may have noticed that we have a free to you stall of clothes, toys and household items which are free for you to take home, all that we ask is that you do not take the hangers or any of the storage containers. We are also happy to take donations of any of these items; however, this will be dependent on their condition and size.



Your cooperation and understanding in all of these matters is very much appreciated.

Please feel free to speak to either myself or Mary if you have any questions.

Best wishes

Catherine Cunningham
Head of Centre – Drumchapel Early Years Centre