



Wee Rascals Summer Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, this is the time of year that I dread - the time for the children to move onto school after another memorable Graduation! It's always a very sad goodbye, but it's also lovely to have watched them grow and support them with their development to become ready for their next chapter in life.

Again, we would like to thank you all for trusting us with your babies. It has been an absolute pleasure having them at Wee Rascals Nursery.

Staffing

Rosie Wells is sadly leaving us. Her last day will be Friday 23rd August. Rosie has decided to take a break from Early Years and is moving on to an administrative job. We wish her the best of luck.

Bardha Lightowler has decided to go off to college to study childcare. She will remain with us, going back to her previous position of a Relief Nursery Assistant, helping during her free time.

Staff training

Well done to Lisa Mitchell who has completed her SVQ level 3 in Social Services (Children and Young People) and is now a qualified practitioner.

Also, Amber Piekarski and I are pleased to announce that we have now completed our SVQ level 4 in Social Services (Children and Young People). I will now be looking at applying to start my Professional Development Award (PDA) in Childhood Practice when the new academic year begins in August 2025.

Inspection

We are absolutely thrilled with our most recent Care Inspection results, receiving the following grades -

<u>What we were inspected on</u>	<u>Grades received</u>
How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
How good is our setting?	4 - Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

If you would like to read the report, it can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/chi6nqqv28jp613rkcui/20240712-Final-Inspection-Report.pdf?rlkey=1pzngphdms8263o4a8qebyjpt&dl=0>

Charity of the year

This year's chosen charity is Kayleigh's Wee Stars, which provides financial support for families where a child has a terminal illness. Kayleigh's Wee Stars is based in Oldmeldrum, and the money raised goes to families throughout Scotland to support parents financially who need to take time off to be with their children in these very tragic circumstances. It has strong connections with hospices and hospitals across Scotland.

Last year, all the nurseries raised a total of £11,486.69 to help Great Ormond Street Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Diseases in Children. Great Ormond Street works alongside University College London tackling some of the most challenging children's diseases.

The money raised will be used: -

- To develop groundbreaking treatment for babies born with rare birth defects to the oesophagus (OA) where the upper part of the oesophagus fails to connect with the lower portion of the stomach.
- To evaluate the impact of early genetic testing and diagnostic outcomes for babies with epilepsy, monitoring seizures and measuring progress of diagnosis.
- For delivery of not-for-profit Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products for rare diseases.

We would like to thank you all for coming along to our annual Sports Day on Saturday the 20th of July. It was a fantastic turn out and I am very glad we had lovely weather for it. We managed to raise £386.40 from our stalls and £390 from our sponsor forms, which gives a total of **£776.40** which goes towards our charity of the year, Kayleigh's Wee Stars. We greatly appreciate you supporting this worthwhile cause.

We are going to be planning more charity events to help raise money and will update you of these in due course.

Stay and play

We are in the process of organising a date for a Stay and Play session. This will mean that you will be invited in for an hour throughout your child's nursery session to see what they get up to whilst attending nursery. More information will be sent out soon.

Learning Experiences

Little Bunnies

The Little Bunnies have loved the new resources which have been purchased for the room, such as the role play kitchen and play food, dressing up clothes and various sensory toys etc. They have had great fun demonstrating their cooking skills, as well as sharing the toys with their peers!

The children have been practicing their gross motor skills whilst getting crafty with paint and cars. They dipped their car wheels into paint before making tyre marks on their paper.

They particularly enjoyed exploring with playdough, using the rolling pins and cutters to create various models. Some of the children even told the ladies what they had made such as "turtle" and "ball" etc. It was adorable!



The boys and girls have been using their problem-solving skills to match the different pictures of fruits. Whilst doing this, we discussed the fruits that they could see such as "banana", "apple", "strawberry" etc. We also encouraged repetition of the colours. They did very well!



Cheeky Monkeys

The Cheeky Monkeys have been very busy this term!

The children got VERY stuck in when using the paints and brushes to paint wooden spools for their numbers wall. This encouraged the children to focus on their fine motor skills and develop their colour recognition whilst working together to create these.

All the children also enjoyed free choice painting, using their fingers and brushes to create a range of lovely pictures!



One of the Cheeky Monkeys asked if they could learn about cats, which then led onto a discussion about animals that they had seen whilst out on adventures! They said things such as "I saw a lion in a gate", "I want to see giraffes". One of the children then asked if they could watch the Edinburgh Zoo live cameras of the animals and the children thoroughly enjoyed doing this! They were able to identify the animals during this and said, "the penguin is flapping", "he's swimming", "he's sleeping."



After this, the children used the playdough to create different animals, learning to roll and mould the playdough with the use of the cutters to create a range of animals.

The boys and girls have also been developing their creative skills, as they have been exploring with the loose parts and creating structures with them.

Everyone loved taking part in a group model making activity where they created their own "Castles". This was a great way for the children to develop their turn-taking and social skills.



Busy Bees

This term, the children in the Busy Bees room have been taking part in a range of activities and learning experiences.

The children had lots of fun playing a game of letter bingo where they had been given cards with a range of letters on them. They then used the colour cubes to mark off which letters they had once a staff member had shouted these out, and then, once the children had all of the letters on their card, we had lots of fun shouting "BINGO"!



We have been continuing to develop the children's literacy and numeracy skills through mark-making. They discussed their favourite books, which included "Wonky Donkey", "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Green Ship." Each child then used the paper, pens and pencils to create their own books. During this process, the children were writing and copying the titles of their books, as well as writing numbers for the page numbers. We all then sat together and looked through their wonderful creations!



After the Euros, a lot of the children came into nursery talking about how they had been watching Scotland play football with their families at home.



The children got creative and created their own Scotland flags using the blue paper and glue. During this, we discussed that Scotland is the country that we live in, and it is a part of Great Britain.



The children have also been taking part in role play activities to develop their real-life experiences. Some of the children have been talking about their younger siblings at home or how they are expecting one soon. They took part in a role play activity where they were learning how to look after the babies, and what different things a baby will need. The Busy Bees had a great knowledge of how to do this as they changed, swaddled, and soothed the babies! It was VERY cute!

Trips

The Cheeky Monkeys enjoyed a trip to Hoodles in Oldmeldrum on Friday the 5th of July and the Busy Bees had a fantastic time at Loopty Lou's Soft Play Centre in Peterhead on Friday the 21st of July.

The children continue to attend Wee Green space in small groups.

Kind regards

Jade Webster

Nursery Manager

weerascals@summersnurseries.com

Tel - 01467 633270